



# Jordan Times

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 جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الواحدة"

## Sahat meets Iranian envoy

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has held talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahat on a visit aimed at resolving outstanding differences between the two countries following their 1980-1988 war. The Iraqi daily Al Thawra, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said Iraq stressed "confidence-building measures, above all, the release of Iraqis held in Iran" during Tuesday's talks. Earlier Mr. Zarif, who arrived in Baghdad Sunday, held five rounds of talks with Foreign Ministry Under-secretary Saad Abdul Majid Al Faisal, during which both sides presented new proposals which could help resolve the prisoner-of-war (PoW) issue, Iraqi officials said. Mr. Zarif, whose visit ends Thursday, is heading the first high-level Iranian delegation to visit Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. Iraq says it has released all Iranian PoWs but that 20,000 Iraqi soldiers are still held in Iran. Tehran says that 5,000 Iranian PoWs are still imprisoned in Iraq. Mr. Zarif said on arrival that Tehran was seeking the "full implementation" of U.N. Security Council resolution 598 that ended the war with Iraq in 1988. It provides among other things for the release and the repatriation of PoWs.

## U.S. Somalia envoy under probe

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department said Wednesday that Somalia special envoy Robert Oakley is under investigation for possible conflict-of-interest violations arising from his work as a private consultant. "We can confirm that he (State Department) inspector general has opened an investigation concerning Mr. Oakley's role as a consultant to MEA (Middle East Airlines)," department spokesman David Johnson said. "Because that investigation is under way, it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time." White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said President Bill Clinton had been unaware of the investigation and retained confidence in Mr. Oakley. She added that his performance in Somalia "speaks for itself." A former ambassador to Somalia, Mr. Oakley was named as a special envoy there last December by then-President George Bush. The New York Times, the first to report the investigation, said Wednesday that MEA had hired Mr. Oakley's Washington-based company this year to help regain profitable routes to the United States suspended while Mr. Oakley was the State Department's chief counterterrorism official in 1985.

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## Israeli jeep crushes Palestinian to death

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — An Israeli border police jeep ran over and killed a Palestinian woman after coming under a hail of stones in a Gaza Strip market on Wednesday. Palestinian witnesses said. Three police men aboard the vehicle tried to drive a path through the crowd and knocked down three people in Khan Yunis market. All three were seriously hurt and 50-year-old Mariam Al Ghalabani died of her injuries in the town's hospital, doctors said.

## Two Palestinians jailed for life

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli military tribunal on Wednesday sentenced to life in jail three young Palestinians from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who allegedly stabbed to death two Israelis, Majdi Jawad, 21, and Mazen Abu Jarad, 20, were jailed for life plus 24 years for killing a settler on the Gaza Strip on March 28. Ismail Abu Mustapha, 21, was given two life terms for killing on March 12 a female settler.

## 2 injured in Baghdad bombing

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A car bomb exploded in central Baghdad Wednesday, injuring two people and causing property damage, an Iraqi government spokesman said. The spokesman, cited by the Iraqi News Agency, accused "foreign-sponsored agents" of being responsible for the blast which occurred before sunrise Wednesday. The explosion "shattered windows, damaged buildings and injured two people" who were passing by, he said. Iraq said Iran was behind a car bomb blast outside a hospital which wounded five people here on Aug. 4. Tehran denied the accusation. Two children were killed and two others were injured in what the official press called an "accidental" explosion in Baghdad, caused by an old mortar shell which the children found in a scrap heap.

## Aziz due to leave France at weekend

PARIS (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is due to finish his medical treatment and leave France at the end of the week, government officials said here Wednesday. Mr. Aziz arrived in France last week, having been granted a visa for medical reasons despite the fact that Paris broke off relations with Iraq just before the Gulf war in 1991. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has defended the granting of the visa as a "humanitarian gesture," and stressed that Paris still expects Iraq to comply with all U.N. Security Council resolutions arising from the Gulf crisis.

## Bhutto urges dialogue on Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called for Indo-Pakistani talks on Kashmir, in a letter to her Indian counterpart P.V. Narasimha Rao Wednesday. In her letter, replying to Mr. Rao's congratulatory message on her assumption of office, Ms. Bhutto described the Kashmir dispute as the "main obstacle" towards normalisation of relations between the two countries.

## Mubarak visits Saudi Arabia

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak left for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday for talks with King Fahd about Middle East peace and Egyptian-Saudi relations. Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who accompanied the president to Jeddah, said the two leaders would discuss developments in Arab-Israeli peace talks as well as other regional issues. Foreign Ministry said Mr. Mubarak also was expected to talk with King Fahd about the Egyptian's visit to the United States, where he will meet President Clinton on Oct. 25.

# King warns rejectionists, restates support for Israel-PLO agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday urged rejectionists to support the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal and not spoil the hopes of those who supported it. The King said he opposed "all-or-nothing" hardliners who had rejected the Sept. 13 deal because it only gave autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho, saying they were trying to "wipe out" the hopes of Palestinians. He also reaffirmed his support for the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

"We were always deprived of any kind of understanding of our concerns and interests — interests which were never anything but the interests of the nation — and a lack of understanding of the reality of our national concern regarding our nation's interest, which we

have always sought to serve, at the expense of this steadfast people. This led to some of us here, those ingrates who deny us our achievements, including the Constitution that we have given the people, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and all that distinguishes this land from others, to ask us — with stupidity and our noble motives in the service of our nation — to be the last to act when it comes to executing our duties towards our people, its future and fate," the King said. "If all the Arabs were to sign declarations of principles or working agendas with Israel towards the achievement of peace before we do, they would have hailed and commended them. But when we sign and prepare ourselves to start working on matters of concern to us, it is a different matter. Everybody

had become involved in peacemaking to begin with — a process to which there is no alternative — and we only did so after our insistence that progress is first made on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and our signing came in support of that progress. "To all of this, I have to say finally that we are for a just and comprehensive peace. Whether we proceed or not, or whether we refrain from taking steps in this process to which everyone is committed in the first place, it is a purely Jordanian national matter, a Jordanian national decision. It is time for everybody, Arabs as well as non-Arabs, to realise that we only act on our convictions that emanate from our concern for the interest of our country and nation equally."

Following is the full text of the King's speech: It gives me pleasure to be amongst you today, to congratulate the graduates of the sixth class of the Royal War College on their success, in the name of Jordan and its citizens, members of the ooc Jordanian family of different origins, the proud citizens whose heads never bow except before Almighty God. The Royal War College is the preeminent military academy; its ranks are joined only by outstanding members of the Arab Army who have proved their qualifications in all the available military courses, through loyal service and distinctive administrative and field capabilities, ever since they joined the Arab Jordanian Armed Forces both in Jordan and abroad.

The participants in this advanced class are introduced to military and strategic research in various political and economic fields, pertaining directly to the Arab Army and its responsibilities, the country and the nation, the region and the world at large, thus enriching our march with new and beneficial studies and proposals. These studies and proposals are discussed and taken into consideration by the General Command, which then outlines our present and future course in the best possible way. In addition, the research conducted by members of this class, provides the state with useful studies and suggested solutions for several important matters and issues. This class also qualifies its graduates to later shoulder their higher responsibilities in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

This, then, is the Royal War College, and this is its chartered course and its contribution. This academy will open its doors in the future to a limited number of qualified



personnel from the armies of brotherly and friendly countries. So, to all of you, to the General Command, to the Staff and Command of the College, I extend, as your colleague, my appreciation and (Continued on page 5)

## Courts overturn rejection of 2 candidacy nominations

### Interior minister rejects IAF charges

By Suhair Obeidat  
 Special to the Jordan Times  
 AMMAN — Courts in Amman and Zarqa Wednesday overturned governor's decisions barring Hamad al-Farhan and Bassam E'moush from running for Parliament and said that their nominations were legal. The Amman First Instance Court ruled that Mr. Farhan's membership to the Palestine National Council (PNC) did not violate the law. In the case of Mr. E'moush, he was able to prove that he had resigned his post at the University of Jordan within the time limit set by the law.

Amman Governor Talat Nawayseh Saturday rejected Mr. Farhan's application on grounds that he is a member of an international organisation, the PNC of the State of Palestine, enjoying the protection of that state, and thus cannot run for a seat in Jordan's Parliament.

The court ruling, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, said that the PNC "is not an international organisation but a legal entity and (Farhan) thus is not considered a member of an international organisation." The court

also ruled that Mr. Farhan "has been a Jordanian citizen for the last 10 years and there is nothing to prove otherwise." The Election Law stipulates that a person running for Parliament be at the time of the candidacy a Jordanian citizen for the last 10 years and that he/she did not hold foreign citizenship or claim foreign protection. The governor of Amman had based his rejection of Mr. Farhan's application on his (the governor) interpretation of the Election Law in that the PNC is "the legislative body of the State of Palestine, and (Farhan) is a member of an organisation in a state other than the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and enjoys the protection of another state recognised by the Jordanian government with an embassy accredited at the Royal Hashemite Court."

In the case of Mr. E'moush, the Zarqa court ruled that the candidate had "produced documents proving that he resigned his post at the University of Jordan on Sept. 29," and not Oct. 12 as the governor had said.

The Election Law states that government employees are not allowed to run for Parliament unless they resign their posts at least one month before the day of elections (Nov. 8).

The governor's rejection of the candidacy of Mr. E'moush, a member of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) running on its ticket in the Zarqa Constituency prompted charges from the front that it was being targeted by the government.

Ishaq Farhan, the front's secretary general, Tuesday cited the rejection of Mr. E'moush's candidacy and the government transfer of 11 Education Ministry employees who are IAF supporters from Tafleh to other regions of the Kingdom as part of a campaign aimed at weakening the front's chances in the coming elections.

"In the past few days, some ministries and institutions have 'negatively' interfered in the elections process in a manner violating the law and depriving candidates of their constitutional and legal rights," Dr. Farhan told a press conference Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad as saying that the

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hotel were the second round of detailed talks on arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The first meeting of the Gaza-Jericho committee, also at Taba bordering the southern Israeli resort of Eilat, was only procedural.

Israeli spokesman Ami Gluska said he expected an announcement on the release of Palestinian prisoners later Wednesday. The PLO are pressing hard for releases to build up Palestinian confidence in the self-rule deal. "I suppose there will be an announcement today on the liberation of prisoners but its realisation could take place in the coming days," Gluska said. Palestinians seemed determined to win the release of at least some of the 12,000 prisoners and detainees held by Israel.

"First things first. The prisoners are a priority. We would like to see some results on the ground as fast as possible," Dr. Shaath told Reuters before he and Israeli delegation head General Amr Shahak convened their teams.

## Russia may veto Libya sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Russia is threatening to veto proposed new sanctions against Libya, a longtime ally of the former Soviet Union under fire for sheltering two men suspected in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev made the threat in a letter delivered Friday to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, according to diplomatic sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. If Russia vetoes the new sanctions, it would be its first veto on a major issue since 1994. Moscow vetoed a resolution on financing of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus in May but supported a later version.

The United States, Britain and France are anxious for the Security Council to slap new sanctions on Libya for refusing to turn over the suspects in the Flight 103 case. The plane blew up over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people. The suspects have refused to surrender for trial in Britain or the United States. The new sanctions would freeze Libya's assets abroad but exclude its source of biggest foreign currency earnings, future sales of oil and petroleum products. Some Libyan oil equipment purchases would be banned. Current sanctions bar the sale of arms, as well as air links and diplomatic embargo from Libya. They were approved in April 1992.

Russia objects to the assets provision of the proposed sanctions. Moscow says Libya owes it \$3.9 billion for weapons and other goods sold in the past, as well as \$4.6 billion in compensation for cancelled contracts, according to the (Continued on page 5)

## Ross: U.S. is studying means to address Jordan economic woes

By Ayman Al Safadi  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. coordinator for the Middle East Dennis Ross said Wednesday that the United States would "do all (it) can" to help Jordan get relief from its \$6.5 billion foreign debt.

He said, however, that "we are still in a position where we have to sort out what is possible" in coordination with other creditors. Jordan hopes the U.S. will cut some of its \$1 billion foreign debt to Washington, which includes \$350 million in military debt.

President Bill Clinton said after talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Washington on Oct. 1 that Washington would back Jordan's efforts to alleviate its foreign debt burden.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a one-day visit to the country, Mr. Ross also said the United States would consider

the economic difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of the enforcement of economic sanctions against Iraq. "It is very important to ensure the sanctions regime (against Iraq) ... (but we) take account of Jordan's needs," Mr. Ross said during a press conference held after talks with Jordanian officials on the peace process.

Mr. Ross had earlier delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from President Clinton, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra said King Hussein and Mr. Ross held talks on the latest developments in the peace process and means of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the area.

Mr. Ross held similar talks with Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani. Petra said Prince Hassan presented Mr. Ross with Jordan's position on "the grave events through which the area has passed ... and the commitments that the conflict in the region entailed."

Mr. Ross said his talks in Jordan focused on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. He said Jordan and the United States agree "that it is important to move ahead quickly" in the peace process so as to achieve tangible changes and improve the environment of peacemaking.

Responding to a question, Mr. Ross said the U.S. sees a Jordanian-Israeli-American economic committee, formed during Prince Hassan's talks in Washington in October, as an important mechanism for developing and coordinating joint projects.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel (Continued on page 5)

## U.S. troubleshooter reports 'progress' after Rabin talks

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — U.S. envoy Dennis Ross reported "progress" after talks Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the Middle East peace process, officials said.

"We made progress," the State Department's peace coordinator told reporters after spending two-and-a-half hours with Mr. Rabin, 90 minutes longer than scheduled. "We had a very good discussion. We talked very much about how we can help the implementation of the declaration of principles," he said referring to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement.

Mr. Rabin had "focused on" the implementation of autonomy, Mr. Ross said, as Israel resumed autonomy negotiations with the PLO at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba. "We also discussed what can be done to try to make progress on the other track," he added, alluding to the bilateral talks with Syria which have got nowhere in two years.

In Amman earlier Wednesday Mr. Ross said after meeting His Majesty King Hussein: "We are convinced that both in Israel and in Syria there is a commitment to working on this process."

He did not rule out U.S. support for secret talks between the two sides. "Our approach is to favour whatever is going to work to make progress ... the approach, the format and mechanism for each bilateral negotiations might have to be tailored," he said.

Israeli officials said the envoy was trying to broker a breakthrough with Syria and agree on a date for a 12th round of bilateral peace negotiations in Washington. Mr. Rabin has called for direct talks with Syrian leaders to try to get out of the impasse.

The discussion had also covered "what can be done to promote an environment for greater peace and make a reconciliation in all the areas," Mr. Ross said.

He travels to Damascus on Thursday and could return to Israel the following day, the officials said.

"There are complicated issues that will have to be sorted out," he said, of the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. "It may take time to do that, but we are willing to do (Continued on page 5)

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# Netanyahu and Sharon present own peace plans

TEL AVIV (AP) — Opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, stung by criticism of his uncompromising opposition to the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), on Tuesday presented an alternative plan ruling out Palestinian sovereignty in lands now occupied by Israel.

It is not enough to merely oppose, Mr. Netanyahu told a special Likud Party convention in Tel Aviv. "We must present a clear alternative to the government's policies."

Likud has been in disarray since it lost the government to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party in 1992 elections.

Mr. Netanyahu is trying to rally the party into a strong opposition that could curtail Mr. Rabin's manoeuvring room in peace talks, especially with Syria.

On Tuesday, many expected a confrontation between Mr. Netanyahu and his rivals for party leadership, but this was apparently avoided with a last-minute decision to defer any vote on new proposals and a decision by bitter opponent David Levy not to attend.

But the absence of a vote also weakened attendance, with only a quarter of the 3,500 central committee members showing up. The atmosphere — normally raucous — was somber.

Mr. Netanyahu won cheers when he said a Likud government would recognise Jews' right to all of "Eretz Yisrael" — including the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip — while "allowing minorities to live honourably, but under our sovereignty."

Although the accord Israel signed with the PLO last month only promises Palesti-

nians autonomy during a five-year "interim stage," it does not explicitly rule out eventual Palestinian statehood as part of the final settlement.

Despite Mr. Rabin's continued public opposition to a Palestinian state, most observers expect that a Labour-led government would ultimately relinquish Israeli sovereignty over most of the occupied territories as part of the final settlement.

Mr. Netanyahu said autonomy should be limited to several disconnected districts in heavily populated Arab areas, encircled and cut off from each other by east-west security corridors "linking Israel's coastal plain to the Jordan Valley."

The government has said autonomy would eventually encompass all of Gaza and the West Bank except occupied East Jerusalem.

Ex-Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, who was widely expected to challenge Mr. Netanyahu at Tuesday's meeting, instead proposed a plan nearly identical to the party leader's.

Both Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Sharon appeared to moderate their tone somewhat, reflecting a possibly coordinated effort to reach a political middle ground: "Mr. Sharon, for example, did not repeat past threats to abrogate the accord altogether if Likud regained power."

But their proposals did not contain the substantial departure from past headline Likud positions on the peace talks that many in the party's rank-and-file had hoped for.

Meir Shitreet, a moderate Likud legislator who defied Mr. Netanyahu during parliament's vote on the peace plan by abstaining, was greeted with loud, sustained jeers and cries for his resignation.

Mr. Shitreet argued that opposition to the accord was politically unwise since even many Likud voters are willing to give it a chance.

Polls show two out of three Israelis want to be rid of Gaza and about as many support the accord.

One recent survey, by pollster Hanoch Smith, showed the governing Labour Party leading Likud by 37 to 26 per cent, versus a near-tie before the accord was signed Sept. 13, and Mr. Rabin was supported by 53 per cent, well ahead of Mr. Netanyahu.

## Israel plans 13,000 units in occupied land

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel plans to build 13,000 new housing units in the occupied territories, Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stopped most new settlement building in the occupied territories when he came to power in July 1992 but excluded the "greater Jerusalem" area which he has vowed to keep.

"I certainly intend in the near future to create the conditions to build about 13,000 apartment units in the Jerusalem area," Mr. Ben-Eliezer told Israel Radio.

A housing ministry spokesman said nearly all the units would be built on land Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war and 2,000 to 3,000 were already under construction.

The announcement was likely to anger Palestinians who have demanded a halt to all settlement building.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a peace agreement last month giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A U.S. official said earlier this month Washington would penalise Israel for building in occupied territories, deducting about \$500 million from \$2 billion in U.S.-promised loan guarantees for 1994.

The United States last year pledged \$10 billion in loan guarantees over five years in return for Mr. Rabin's settlement freeze.

It was not clear if Washington would allow for construction in Arab East Jerusalem. Mr. Rabin had also allowed building to be completed elsewhere in the occupied territories to honour contracts signed by previous governments.

Some new housing will be built in Maale Adumim near Jerusalem — the largest settlement.



Somali youths hurl rocks at Egyptian U.N. peacekeepers in Mogadishu Wednesday in a protest against the checkpoint the soldiers established on the road to the airport to stop the arms traffic (AFP photo)

## Howe hopes for the best, is wary of the worst in Somalia

By Paul Alexander  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — A year from now, Somalia could be conducting a census, putting the final touches on a new police and court system and preparing for national elections, says U.N. special envoy Jonathan Howe.

But Mr. Howe also sees the very real possibility that chaos, civil war and starvation could return to plague the country-side.

Today the retired American admiral finds himself walking a tightrope in the midst of a raging storm, buffeted by political crosswinds and accusations that the United Nations has bungled the multi-national operation in Somalia since it assumed control from the United States in May.

Still, he remains upbeat, accentuating U.N. accomplishments in other parts of the country even as southern Mogadishu remains tense, warlord Mohammed Farah Aideded continues to churn out anti-U.N. rhetoric, and the United Nations searches for a way out of the East African quagmire.

"The vast majority of the country does support the United Nations and does want to recover from all of the heartache and pain they've gone through," Mr. Howe said in an interview Tuesday.

"Compared with a year ago, there has been amazing progress," he said. "But it's fragile and it could easily go back to where it was."

When foreign troops arrived last December, their mission was to get food past warring clans to the starving. That they did. But when 24 Pakistani peacekeepers were ambushed and killed June 5, the focus of the mission changed to capturing

Gen. Aideded and disarming his militia.

The shift in priorities and resulting civilian and troop casualties created an international uproar, leading some countries to question their participation in the operation and distance themselves from the new U.N. policy.

Still, Mr. Howe is adamant that one key to the future is making sure those responsible for the deaths of U.N. forces face justice. Since June 5, 76 peacekeepers have died, and the United Nations blames Gen. Aideded's forces.

"If there's not a responsible accounting for these attacks against the United Nations, then there is increased potential that this whole country will degenerate back into major clan warfare," Mr. Howe said. "And there are implications for the world and how the U.N. conducts its business."

Mr. Howe said he hopes Gen. Aideded's faction takes advantage of "a window of opportunity" for peace.

"It takes two to have a dialogue and it takes two to have an interest in peace," he said. "Peace does not necessarily serve the interests of those who have attacked us, apparently. I hope it does now."

Mr. Howe refused to admit the United Nations made mistakes. "It's too soon" to make that assessment, he said.

Aid workers and military officials privately say Mr. Howe's biggest mistake was putting out "wanted" posters for Gen. Aideded and offering a \$25,000 reward for his capture.

Gen. Aideded used that to subvert the U.N. operation, gathering support by portraying the conflict as a personal battle between himself and Mr. Howe.

There has been speculation that Gen. Aideded released the prisoners and called a unilateral truce to buy time until U.S. forces pull out by March 31, at which point he will push to become president of Somalia.

"I think it's doubtful that he would be elected in this country in a fair and equitable process," Mr. Howe said.

"But that is a choice the Somali people will make, ultimately, so it is not for us to cast judgment on people they choose to elect," he said. "Our focus should be on the process and ensuring it is fair and equitable."

## 3 foreigners kidnapped in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Armed men have kidnapped three foreigners working for an Italian company building a gas pipeline in Algeria, diplomatic sources said on Wednesday.

"They were kidnapped yesterday in Tiarret — two Latin Americans and a Filipino," one source said, adding that security forces were hunting for them and their abductors.

There was no word on the identity of the kidnappers but last month two Frenchmen were kidnapped and killed in western Algeria.

The Frenchmen were the first foreigners to be murdered in violence generally blamed on Muslim fundamentalists in which more than 1,500 people have died in under two years.

The three kidnapped on Tuesday work for the Milan-based engineering firm, Abb. Sae. Sadelmi.

One source named them as Eliseo Castillo of Peru, Colombian Alvaro Rueda, and Filipino Cesar Guarin and said they were technicians working on gas pipeline along with Algeria's state oil and gas company Sonatrach.

They were seized at Tiarret, 220 kilometres southwest of Algiers, on the day the Russian embassy confirmed that two military officers on attachment from Moscow had been shot dead at the weekend. A third Russian was wounded.

"At 5.30 a.m. yesterday, three armed individuals burst into the firm's canteen and took the three foreigners there, leaving two Algerians. They took the three with them in a Toyota vehicle belonging to the firm," another source said.

The gunmen were armed with shotguns and Kalashnikov rifles.

Algerian daily newspapers suspended publication on Wednesday in protest at the latest murder of a journalist.

Knifed several times and then shot outside his home, Smail Yefsah, who worked with state television, was the second television newsman to be killed in five days and the seventh journalist to die since May.

Thousands of people attended his burial in his hometown, Biala Amara, east of Algiers.

Algeria, battered by foreign debt which swallows about 75 per cent of its annual foreign income of some \$11 to \$12 billion, has been seeking foreign investors to help its economy.

A new, liberal investment code is expected to be published shortly.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**PLO cancels Jerusalem conference**

AMMAN (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has cancelled a business conference in Jerusalem because it was a premature step towards normalisation with Israel, an official said Tuesday. "The Jerusalem conference was cancelled because we felt it was too early to hold a conference in Jerusalem under Israeli administration... because it could be misunderstood now as speedy normalisation," PLO strategist Nabil Shaath told Reuters. The first-ever Palestinian business conference in Jerusalem, organised by a top PLO official in the territories, Faisal Husseini, was to have been held from Oct. 30 and Nov. 1. The conference, planned before the PLO-Israeli accord, was aimed at enlisting the support of expatriate Palestinian investors in rebuilding the ailing infrastructure of the territories.

**Mitterrand stops over in Cairo for dinner**

CAIRO (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand stopped over Tuesday evening on his way home from Yemen for a business dinner with President Hosni Mubarak. The two leaders went into private talks at Cairo international airport and Mr. Mitterrand left for Paris after dinner. Mr. Mitterrand flew in from the Yemeni capital Sanaa, where he ended Tuesday a two-day visit focused on threats to French oil interests because of Yemen's border problems with Saudi Arabia.

**Afghan president urges reconstruction aid**

ABU DHABI (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani said Tuesday his country needed \$4 billion for reconstruction following more than a decade of war. Mr. Rabbani said he asked Gulf Arab states to contribute aid to help Afghanistan repatriate about five million refugees who fled to Pakistan and Iran to escape civil war. The Emirates News Agency said Mr. Rabbani, who also visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, held talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan. Mr. Rabbani said he will visit Egypt soon and then Russia, where he will repeat a request for war reparations. Thousands of people have been killed in rocket attacks and factional fighting in and around Kabul since the Mujahadeen took power from the former communist government in April 1992. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said last month that out of more than three million refugees who fled to Pakistan during the 14-year Afghan civil war, nearly 1.3 million had gone home in 1992. The refugee return slowed this year in the absence of a stable administration while rival groups continued to fight each other.

**Turkish Cypriots detain German, Austrian**

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot officials have detained a German and an Austrian after they demonstrated to back a Turkish Cypriot conscientious objector, a support committee member said Tuesday. German Martin Hantke, 30, and Andreas Rabi, 32, of Austria were remanded in custody by a military court in the Turkish sector of Nicosia on Monday, Hurrem Tolga told Reuters. The two had distributed leaflets and held a march in Nicosia to support Salih Askeroglu who was living with a Greek Cypriot woman until he was detained for refusing to serve. Officials said the court would either charge or release Mr. Hantke and Mr. Rabi when they appeared again on Friday. Cyprus had been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern third of the island after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. Mr. Tolga, a member of the conscientious objectors support committee in Nicosia, said Mr. Hantke and Mr. Rabi belonged to the Vienna-based Conscientious Objectors Group. "Many more foreigners are coming to demonstrate their support for Salih," he said but gave no details. The same court which is trying Mr. Askeroglu adjourned his trial to Oct. 25. Yiota Nikolau, Ms. Askeroglu's 19-year-old companion, was deported to the Greek Cypriot side on Sept. 29 after Mr. Askeroglu was arrested.

**Turkish papers bow to Kurdish threat**

ANKARA (R) — The offices of five big national dailies in southeastern Turkey were shut on Tuesday after journalists heeded a Kurdish rebel threat to stop reporting. Calls to regional offices of Milliyet, Sabah, Hurriyet, Cumhuriyet and Gunaydin determined they had closed after the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) ordered them to shut as of Tuesday for biased reporting. The government urged people in the region to thwart pressure from the Kurds, whose fight for an independent Kurdish threat has killed more than 7,500 people since 1984. "The PKK is a terror organisation," Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu told a news conference. "They want to create panic, fear and terror. If we bow before their threats they will demand bigger concessions." The newspapers and television have great power. If they take a step backwards, it will mean helping the PKK to reach its goals. More than a dozen journalists, mostly from the Kurdish press have been killed in the region in the past two years. Kurdish nationalists accuse government-backed death squads.

**Saudi Arabia, Syria seek to boost trade**

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia and Syria aim to boost bilateral trade by harmonising border rules and setting up two joint transport companies, the Saudi finance and economy minister said. "Overland transport, which carries the main portion of the two countries' trade, needs to be made easier," Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abal Khalil said in a statement quoted on Wednesday by the official Saudi news agency SPA. The minister was speaking after a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Mohammad Inadi, a Syrian delegation led by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara is currently in the Saudi capital for economic and political cooperation talks. Sheikh Mohammad said a team of Saudi experts would be sent to Syria to study land border arrangements on both sides with a view to harmonising them to make the passage of trucks easier. Syrian and Saudi businesses were studying setting up two jointly-owned transport companies, one for land and one for sea traffic, he said.

## Hurd meets Clerides and Denktash; no new ideas

NICOSIA (AP) — British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd conferred with Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders on Wednesday and denied he had brought any British plan to solve the Cyprus problem.

Mr. Hurd met for an hour and 45 minutes with Cyprus President Glafos Clerides and Rauf Denktash, the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

Before the meeting there had been speculation Mr. Hurd either had a proposal to break the deadlock in U.N.-sponsored peace talks, or planned to admonish Mr. Denktash, who has been blamed by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for blocking progress.

"I am not bringing any British plan for solving the Cyprus problem," Mr. Hurd told reporters at the end of the meeting at the Ledra Palace Hotel, now a barracks for U.N. peacekeeping forces in the buzzer zone dividing the island.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned into the Turkish occupied north and the Greek Cypriot controlled south since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Mr. Hurd said he asked to meet the two leaders over lunch while he is in Cyprus for the Commonwealth summit that opens Thursday.

He said the meeting allowed him to hear the views of the two leaders expressed in "a friendly and candid exchange."

"I came away enlightened... but I cannot say that a settlement is any closer after the last two hours," he added.

"I am going away absolutely convinced on the need for perseverance" with the U.N.-sponsored initiative to find a settlement, Mr. Hurd said.

A planned separate meeting between Mr. Hurd and Denktash was apparently called off after Mr. Clerides complained this would be considered an unfriendly act by Britain, tantamount to recognition of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state which is only recognised by Ankara.

Mr. Hurd refused to answer when asked whether he did have separate talks with Mr. Denktash, who arrived at the meeting after the British official and 10 minutes before Mr. Clerides.

"You saw what happened today," he said without further elaboration. Mr. Clerides spoke to reporters after returning to his presidential palace said the purpose of the meeting "was to determine if there is a prospect for opening the road to a settlement."

He added the impression created by Mr. Denktash during the meeting was that "he is not only showing distrust towards the Security Council, but also toward the United Nations and the secretary-general."

There was no immediate comment from Mr. Denktash who drove off into the Turkish-occupied north immediately after the meeting.

A Greek Cypriot escaped police detention and attacked Queen Elizabeth's parked Rolls Royce on Wednesday, cracking its windows, police said.

Harris Aristodou, in police custody for threatening to kill himself in protest at the British monarch's visit, broke free and threw himself handcuffs-first at the empty car while it was parked in this port city, police said.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 7311119	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Supreme Sur Price
19:00	News in French
19:15	Remontre
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Crunch
21:00	Reasonable Doubts
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "The Taste For Killing"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:22	Fajr
05:30	Sunrise/Duha
11:20	Dhuhr
14:32	Asr
17:02	Maghrib
18:19	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweid, Tel. 610749	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 612785	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 617440	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 601757	
Terrence Church, Tel. 623306	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church, Tel. 608511, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church, Tel. 711311	
Armenian Orthodox Church, Tel. 711311	
St. Ephraim Church, Tel. 711751	
Amman International Church, Tel. 625236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tel. 624529	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation, Tel. 604195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Tel. 654922	
Church of Nazareth, Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Balkan supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy to cloudy and dry with a chance of rain in the afternoon, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of the Kingdom. Wind will be southeasterly in the afternoon. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and dry with a chance of rain. Wind will be westerly active and strong.	
Min./Max temp. 19/31	
Amman 23/34	
Desert 18/32	
Jordan Valley 24/36	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31.4, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 620341	
Civil Defence Emergency 199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 731121	
Highway Police 843302	
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hotel Complaints 605800	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	
Complaints 897467	
Amman Municipality 787111	
Complaints 787111	
Telephone Information (toll-free) 121	
Overseas Calls 110230	
Central Amman Telephone 623181	
Repair 623181	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101	
Jordan Television 731111	
Radio Jordan 774111	
Water Authority 680100	
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre 813813/332	
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642411/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642412	
Mahjeh, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmehani 664171/4	
Shmehani Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845845	
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9	
The Islamic, Abdali 661271/7	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6	
Italian, Al-Muhajereh 771110/3	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771112/6	
Army, Marka 891611/15	
Queen Alia Hospital 602249/50	
Amal Hospital 664171/5	
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital 1199833/33	
Zarga National Hospital 1199805/60	
Ibn Sina Hospital 1199862/22	
Al-Hikmah Modern Hospital 1199899/99	
TRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital 1121755/55	
Greek Catholic Hospital (112)2227/5	
Al Nafes Hospital (112)247100	
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (01)52309-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:30	Aden (RJ)
07:15	Sanaa (RJ)
09:15	New Delhi (RJ)
09:30	Riyadh (RJ)
09:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
09:55	Beirut (RJ)
10:00	Colombo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
17:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:15	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
18:30	London, Berlin (RJ)
18:30	Athens (RJ)
19:00	Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:10	Rome (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	Rome (RJ)
11:05	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:00	Paris (RJ)
12:05	Athens (RJ)
12:05	London (RJ)
12:15	Larnaca (RJ)
12:30	Jeddah (RJ)
20:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:45	Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
07:05	Larnaca (CY)
08:15	Beirut (ME)
13:50	Vienna (AA)
14:30	Riyadh (SA)
17:45	Damascus (AZ)
20:25	Cairo (MS)
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Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday	
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday	
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	850/600
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Beans	750/550
Cabbage	150/100
Carrot	370/300
Cauliflower	280/200
Celentiac	260/180
Cucumbers (large)	130/90
Cucumbers (small)	270/200
Eggplant	240/180
Garlic	400/300
Grapes	490/350
Grape Fruit	240/180
Guava	300/200
Leaves	130/90
Marrow (large)	270/200
Marrow (small)	270/200
Mulukhia	300/200
Olives (green)	500/300
Onion (dry)	250/180
Pepper (hot)	280/200
Pepper (sweet)	280/200
Potato	400/300
Tomato	130/90
Spinach	300/200

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.





Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday receives Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani of Qatar (Petra photo)

## Majali pays tribute to Jordanian-Qatari relations

### Qatari emir's brother begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday praised the strong ties between Jordan and Qatar expressing hope that they will deepen to serve the interests of the Jordanian and Qatari people.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with visiting Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani, brother of Qatari Emir Sheikh Khalifah Ben Hamad Al Thani, the prime minister said that the basis of strong relations between the two countries was laid by His

Majesty King Hussein and the Qatari's emir.

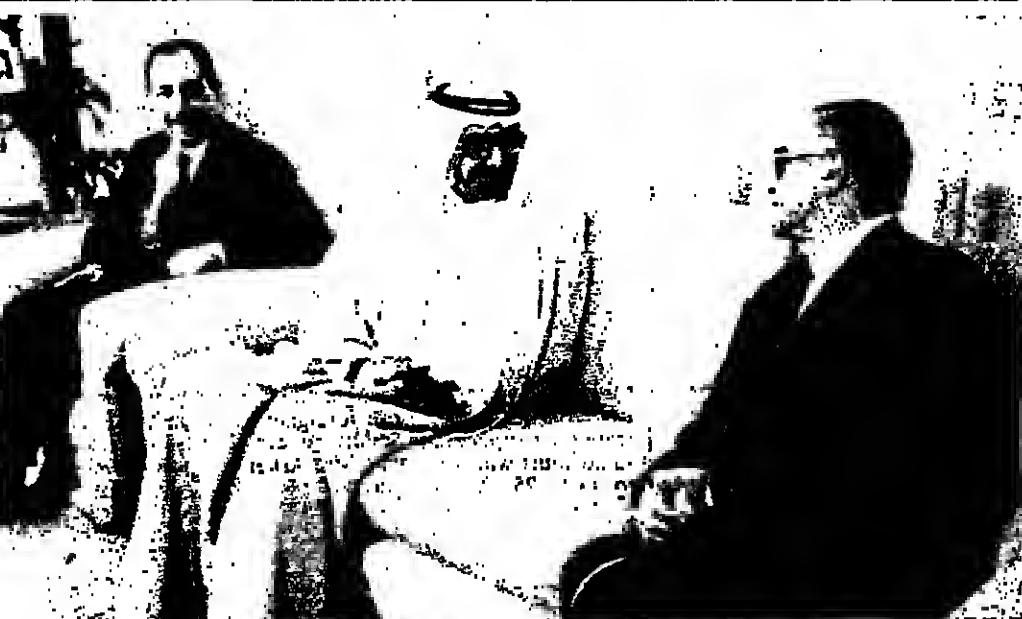
He voiced hope that Sheikh Mohammad's visit to Jordan would further bolster bilateral ties in all fields.

Dr. Majali and the Qatari guest reviewed Middle East affairs and Jordanian-Qatari relations.

Voicing his appreciation of the invitation accorded to him by Dr. Majali, Sheikh Mohammad said the visit serves as an opportunity for him to see progress achieved in Jordan.

Upon arriving here earlier Wednesday, Sheikh Mohammad said he was carrying greetings to King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan from the emir of Qatar and Qatar's crown prince.

Present at the meeting with the prime minister was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan, members of the Qatari delegation and accompanying Sheikh Mohammad and Qatar's Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Ben Abdul Aziz Al Naser.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali (right) and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan (left) Wednesday receive Sheikh Mohammad Ben Hamad Al Thani upon his arrival (Petra photo)

## Germany, Jordan review technical, capital aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Ministry for Economics and Foreign Office opened talks here Wednesday with Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz on economic and technical cooperation between Jordan and Germany.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the two sides reviewed technical and capital aid that has already been provided to Jordan to finance development, especially in water and agriculture, and also further cooperation and assistance to the Kingdom.

Petra said the German side, which is led by Winfried

Fuchs, director general of their ministry for economic cooperation, reviewed with Dr. Fariz progress in projects being implemented and loans offered to the Kingdom.

A Planning Ministry source was quoted by Petra as saying that following the two days of talks Thursday the two sides are expected to conclude several agreements and sign memoranda as well as minutes of their deliberations covering technical and capital aid from Germany to Jordan in the current year.

Germany and Jordan hold annual negotiations alternately in Bonn and Amman to chart

plans for German-financed development projects in the Kingdom.

The German embassy here said at present Bonn is implementing more than 10 projects, mostly in the fields of water, sewerage, agriculture and irrigation.

Germany has seconded several experts to supervise the implementation of these projects, according to the embassy.

Present at the talks with Dr. Fariz was ministry Secretary General Safwan Touqan and several officials from the German embassy and the Ministry of Planning.

## Princess Basma praises work of panel preparing for women's conference in Peking

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian committee preparing for the Fourth International Conference on Women to be held in China in 1995 met Wednesday under the chairmanship of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who praised the cooperation of the committee members.

The members, who include representatives of the private and public sectors, reviewed a general report on women's activities in Jordan that will be submitted to the conference.

Princess Basma, who will lead the Jordanian delegation to Peking, paid tribute to the close cooperation among the committee members saying that their work will result in an integrated and comprehensive report that would reflect the status and activities of Jordanian women as well as their achievements and gains.

The committee listened to Thoraya Obaid, deputy executive secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), who reviewed a report designed to serve as a guideline

for the participating delegation at the Peking conference.

ESCWA will organize a conference in November 1994 with the participation of all Arab countries to prepare a joint Arab working paper for the meeting in China, Ms. Obaid added.

The committee appointed Munther Al Masri as chairman and Haifaa Al Bashir as rapporteur to the committee.

Earlier Princess Basma opened a workshop on communications and training skills organized by the Jordanian Society for Family Planning in cooperation with the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The Princess said in a brief statement that the secret of success in public service lies in communication with the local communities and a direct approach to the households which have different requirements and needs.

Princess Basma urged continued training that can earn those involved in public work more flexibility to adapt to various situations.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday chairs a meeting of a preparatory committee working on reports and plans for the International

Conference on Women to be held in Peking in 1995 (Petra photo)

## Thunderous showers predicted for tonight

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thunderous showers are expected in the Kingdom this evening, particularly in the southern and eastern regions, according to the Department of Meteorology Wednesday evening.

A Department official told the Jordan Times that the weather conditions will remain unstable beginning Thursday evening with partly cloudy to clear skies and scattered showers, mainly in the south.

He said that Aqaba will likely receive scattered showers Thursday, winds will be southerly and moderate and the sea choppy.

Unstable weather conditions in Jordan have continued for the last three days with reports of torrential rains in and around Ma'an city in the south and in Aqaba further south.

Reports from Aqaba published in the local press Wednesday said that the port

city had witnessed unprecedented storms and heavy rains that brought life in the business sector of the city to a standstill and cleared the streets of traffic.

Posters hung by candidates running in the coming parliamentary elections were torn away by the high winds, and the Civil Defence Department (CDD) announced that it was ready to deal with any emergency.

Earlier, reports said torrential rains had swept the city of Ma'an causing heavy damage to property.

According to the department, a total of 36.8 millimetres (mms) of rain fell in the past few days in Ma'an, 20 mms in Shobak, 10.5 mms in Jafer and 8.5 mms in Aqaba.

Rainfall in Rweished, in the east of the country, was estimated to be 26.5 mms and 7.3 mms in Irbid in the north.

## Tunis, Amman to sign transport agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan hopes to conclude an agreement with Tunisia on organising direct maritime transport in order to promote trade cooperation between the two countries, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket.

Dr. Saket, who is in Tunis co-chairing the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Economic Committee with his Tunisian counterpart, said that the two sides expect to initial such an agreement in the next two days, thus opening the way for direct transportation of goods via Aqaba and the Tunisian ports.

Also in the offing, is an agreement to promote cultural relations between the two countries, said the minister following a second round of talks which covered economic and trade relations.

Dr. Saket told the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, that the two sides have so far revised previous agreements on economic and trade matters and are preparing minutes of their deliberations to be signed in the next two days.

He said that besides co-chairing the meeting, he was holding separate talks with the Tunisian minister of finance and the governor of the Tunisian central bank, as well as with representatives of the private sector, aimed at bolstering trade and economic links with Jordan.

In the talks, said the minister, he sought to raise the current level of trade exchanges between the two countries noting that Tunisia and Jordan annually exchange goods worth \$4 million through direct trade deals and \$10 million through the trade centres in Amman and Tunis.

## 'Future Horizons' meeting ends urging for new Arab cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants at the "Future Horizons in a Changing World" conference Wednesday called for the formation of a new Arab system of cooperation to confront current challenges and rapid developments in the international arena.

In the recommendations submitted at the end of the two-day conference started Tuesday, participants demanded the immediate formation of an official committee to include experts in different fields from Jordan and Palestine who will draw up guidelines for economic, technological and administrative cooperation strategies. Such plans would be designed to promote ways of developing human resources.

The recommendations also called for increased efforts to promote Arab women's active involvement in the development process.

Also on the list of recommendations was the announcement of an environmental charter that includes all aspects related to the unification of environmental legislations among Arab countries, in accordance with universal laws.

### OBITUARY

#### ELSA KALWEIT

Beloved wife of Abdurrahman Bushnaq mother of Inea and Renata Bushnaq grandmother of Cirene and Nadya, passed away in peace during the night, Oct. 19, 1993, after a short illness. She was eighty years old.

Condolences at the Bushnaq house, Wadi Seer road, beyond the Bayader, Oct. 21 and 22. Ladies in the morning and gentlemen in the afternoon.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### King, Queen meet teenage ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday met with the young American ambassador of peace, Brad Correa, at Nadwa Palace. Mr. Correa is a 14-year-old peace activist who has travelled extensively in the Arab World. He is currently visiting Jordan on a mission to promote peace, friendship and cooperation. In the meeting, Queen Noor commended his mission and encouraged him to continue his worthy efforts. Mr. Correa also met with His Majesty King Hussein during his visit to Jordan.

### Restoration of Umayyad palace begins

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Spanish team of architects Wednesday started work on restoring and consolidating the ancient Umayyad palace in Amman. Working in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, the eight-member team, led by Antonio Almagro will complete its work by the end of the year, according to department Director Safwan Tell.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhallad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Case Exhibition Hall (5th Circle).
- ★ Exhibition of equipment and aides for the disabled at the Jordanian Sports Centre for the Disabled.
- ★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the International Exhibition Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Hadidi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ The Jordan International Exhibition displaying electric equipment and appliances, furniture, carpets, food items, chemicals, cosmetics, flowers, marble, and tiles at the Amman International Fair.
- ★ The 4th Amman International Computer Exhibition at the Amman International Car Show.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at

### the Alia Art Gallery.

- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Caricature drawings exhibition by late cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Pakistani Universities Alumni Club in Jabal Amman.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Abu Jaber estate, Yadoudeh (next to Kan Zaman).
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Abir Al Bawab, Michael 'Ujailat, Mohammad Abu Affeh, Amani Masha'al, and Mohammad Abu Aziz at Abu Nsir Club.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka's Art Gallery in Al Fuheis.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubedi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

### FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Them" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (95 min.)

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## Jordan Times

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## Politics away from work

THERE IS no doubt that in the eyes of the law and in terms of sound policy, public officials, especially teachers, may not exploit their positions and status to advance the cause of any political party that they belong to or sympathise with during an election period. In this context, the government is right to take administrative action against those who violate this code of conduct that is reflected so clearly in the relevant laws of the country. What is wrong in the government's recent punitive measures against certain teachers in the Tafila district, however, is that the action took the form of transferring the teachers in question to other schools in faraway places. This will not solve the problem. While the Ministry of Education's decision to reprimand the concerned teachers can be justifiable, there is nevertheless no justice in disrupting their family lives by summarily transferring them to other areas in order to drive home the message that public servants may not use their positions to disseminate information on political parties or for candidates running for the next general elections. Removing one from his home or arbitrarily moving him to another post geographically removed from his place of residence strikes us as unfair and not commensurate with the problem and would not necessarily mean a proper solution.

What makes this issue especially sensitive and complex is the fact that people even when employed by the state cannot be politically neutralised particularly during an election campaign. Even government officials are entitled to their own political views and to their respective political allegiances as long as these do not interfere with their principal functions.

It will be recalled that in established democracies, even members of the armed forces allowed to vote and take part in the election process. Admittedly we in Jordan have our own peculiar circumstances, both domestic and regional, that would require new rules to govern the role of public officials in the democratic process. We have a history of military coups in the Middle East which makes us wary of plunging the military in political work. As for public civilian officials, we need to be extra careful as to where to draw the line on what is permissible and what is not. Certainly public servants cannot use their offices and public premises to campaign for seekers of parliament seats. They may, however, do this in their own time and outside public places. There is no doubt that many of them would take part in the November elections. Still, the conduct of people who choose to work for the government and therefore for all the people irrespective of their political colour, cannot dish out favours one way or another or use state time to promote the political fortunes of one side or another. After all they are supposed to serve the people no matter what their creed, colour, religion or faith may be. This is the law and this is what Jordan obligated itself to do under the various international treaties that it had ratified.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Wednesday welcomed a visit to Jordan by the Emir of Qatar's brother as a constructive step, signifying a return of solidarity among Arab states. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Thani's visit to Jordan could open the way for the reestablishment of stronger relations among Arab states, following a period of strained ties among them due to the developments in the Arab World, said the daily. The visit is a practical move on the part of Qatar to end inter-Arab differences and to breathe life once again in pan-Arab solidarity that can help the nation deal with the common challenges. It added, Jordan deeply appreciates the move and supports the efforts taken by Qatar and its leaders towards a new era in the Arab region and a fresh move towards building a strong Arab stand, the paper continued. Referring to other signs of improvements in inter-Arab ties, the daily said that a visit to the United Arab Emirates made lately by PLO official Mahmoud Abbas serves as another constructive step towards enhancing the aspired solidarity. While welcoming Sheikh Mohammed's visit to the Kingdom, the Jordanians, said the paper, welcome all other moves by Arab leaders aimed at a new era of closer cooperation among Arab brothers, especially as the region is approaching peace with new hopes for the Arab future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai daily Wednesday said that the PLO leadership ought to adhere strongly to its demand for the release of all the Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails. Mahmoud Rimawi said that without the release of prisoners there can be no peace in the region. In no way should the Palestinians agree to a symbolic release of prisoners or a delay in their freedom: the future of Palestinian prisoners can by no means be subject to compromise, demanded the writer. Under the new era of peace, no Palestinian should remain prisoner of Israel and the suffering must end, he continued. The writer said the PLO ought to give the prisoners' question priority in its talks with the Israeli government and must demand that no repressive measures against the Palestinian people as a whole are allowed to continue. The writer said that as the Palestinian leadership is taking control of matters in Palestine, it alone must be entrusted with security matters and should ensure the release of all Palestinian detainees during the first few months of the self-government rule era, he added. The writer stressed that the Palestinians are now expected by everyone to adhere to all their rights which are prerequisites for a lasting peace.

# The Gaza-Jericho agreement — first things first

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The word "first" in "Gaza-Jericho first," the declaration of principles signed recently by the PLO and Israel, has from the start attracted a great deal of attention and evoked much pondering, controversy and even derision.

There is already a joke about it: Two old men are discussing the agreement. One tells the other: "I don't understand one thing." "What?" the other asks. "I know where Gaza is and where Jericho is, but where is first?"

Admittedly, the joke is neither particularly funny nor subtle. However, it is indicative not only of a certain degree of cynicism regarding the whole deal but also of some serious scepticism and reservation.

The cynicism we can easily deal with. In any society in the world, there are those whose sole job is to ridicule, to discourage and to trivialise. They offer neither constructive advice nor practical alternatives. To all who hold such an attitude (and their number is luckily decreasing) we say what Henry David Thoreau says so eloquently in "Walden": "The fault finder will find faults even in heaven."

By contrast, the scepticism and reservation, which I believe to be healthy, are harder to overlook. Till this very day many people, a comfortable majority among the persons I have talked to, still have mixed feelings about the accord, though they definitely lean more towards it than against it. They are hopeful

but cautious, supportive but hesitant. This is of course understandable, taking into account the abruptness of the event on the one hand and the long history of distrust and conflict on the other.

The reasons they give to justify their caution, hesitation and fear vary noticeably, though those pertaining to the text of the accord itself are significantly fewer and much less persuasive than those pertaining to the overall political/historical context.

**"A great deal of the controversy surrounding the accord and of the resistance to it stems more from the style and manner in which it tackles the Palestinian issue than from the content and substance."**

Among many other reasons, one may cite: the elusiveness of the language of the accord; the ambiguity of the references to Jerusalem, to the settlements, to the refugees and to the final status of the occupied territories; Israeli practices in the West Bank and Gaza, which do not harmonise with the spirit of the accord (i.e. the decision by the Israeli Supreme Court

vis-a-vis Jerusalem); the disagreement among Palestinians themselves and among the Arabs more generally; the somewhat dubious conditions under which the PLO decided to make its move when it held the secret talks, etc.

Undeniably, such concerns are legitimate. My purpose here, however, is not to assess their viability. Rather, I intend to focus on what I consider a major cause lurking behind, informing and enveloping the concerns listed above — one which takes us back to the word "first." It is my firm belief that a lucid explanation of this major cause will dispel much of our lukewarmness and doubt.

A great deal of the controversy surrounding the accord and of the resistance to it, it seems to me, stems more from the style and manner in which it tackles the Palestinian issue than from the content and substance. Interestingly, only few of those I have discussed the agreement with have actually read it.

A careful reading of the text itself reveals that it promises to fulfill essentially all of what the Arabs and Palestinians have been demanding for years from the United Nations, namely a) the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and b) the establishment of comprehensive and lasting peace. The declaration, whose terminology echoes almost identically the terminology of the various U.N. resolutions we so fondly cherish, spells out such demands in the clearest terms.

The opening paragraph, for example, calls on both parties to "strive to live in peaceful coexistence and mutual dignity and security, and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement." Furthermore, Article 1 contains two crucial assertions. It begins: "The aim of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations" is "to establish a Palestinian self-government authority... for a transitional period not exceeding five years, leading to a permanent settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338." It adds, more importantly, that "the interim agreements are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

If one wants to be fussy, one can certainly find many loopholes in the text. On the whole, however, the language of the accord is as precise and acceptable as one can hope for.

Whence is the problem then? In my opinion, it springs primarily from both the philosophy of implementing the agreement and from our own expectations. The accord is based on the premise that the resolution of the Palestine question is to be carried out not all at once but gradually, step by step. This concept is stressed in the famous/famous word "first," in the term "process" in the opening paragraph, and in item 3/Article III which stipulates that the agreement is a "preparatory step towards the realisation of the legitimate rights of the

Palestinian people..." Such an approach is in sharp contrast with what until recently we have been accustomed to expect. Throughout our quest for a solution to the Middle East questions we have either taken it entirely for granted or tacitly assumed that as soon as negotiations begin we shall agree on everything and apply all resolutions the second day. Many of us, it seems to me, think of the solution the way we think of an Arabian lunch, say a

**"Negotiations are by nature lengthy and laborious, and one must therefore unavoidably divide issues, schedule and reschedule, delay, arrange and rearrange priorities. In other words, one must address first things first."**

"mansaf": you sit down and in 10-15 minutes you devour the whole meal including the coffee.

Recent experience, however, has taught us the opposite. Negotiations are by nature lengthy and laborious, and one must therefore unavoidably divide issues, schedule and reschedule, delay, arrange and rearrange priorities.

In other words, one must address first things first, the easier and the lighter then the more difficult and heavier. This is the lesson which our Arab delegates have learned, accepted, and (I am proud to say) mastered since Madrid. Since Madrid they have done nothing but work on agendas and timetables, i.e. planning the steps. Personally, I see nothing wrong with this. On the contrary it is perhaps the wisest, most workable method.

In a new world order orchestrated and managed almost solely by Western powers we may have to change not only our negotiating strategies but even our eating habits. The solution is most likely to resemble a western dinner, say a Thanksgiving turkey: you sit down for light cocktails, you move to the table and slowly start on the soup, you then eat the salad, after that you help yourself to the main course using the knife and fork noiselessly, you then help remove the plates and dishes and sit on the couch to have dessert, and finally you sip your coffee or tea. The process may take up to four hours.

Obviously, many of us mansaf lovers may neither relish nor tolerate the ritual. Whether we like it or not, however, the Gaza/Jericho agreement is the first course in the banquet, the cocktails or the soup.

The writer is an associate professor of American literature in the English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Tourism, main Palestinian asset, awaits development

By Jack Redden  
Reuters

SEBASTIYA, West Bank — By early afternoon one car of visitors had parked near the Roman pillars marking the ruins of ancient Sebastiya. By the standards of the past six years, ticket seller Nur El Din Mukhaimar was having a good day.

While world attention focuses on grandiose dreams of oil refineries and airports, Palestinians' greatest resource — a history replete with names that resonate around the world — lies waiting to be exploited. "Before the intifada we had 10 or 15 buses a day," said Mr. Mukhaimar. With the eruption of that revolt against Israeli rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1987, tourists disappeared.

The legacy of that violence remains — residents point to the spot on the Acropolis where an Israeli soldier killed a local youth and the cracks of army fire drifting up from a shooting range in the valley below.

But the signing of the accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September promises change: tourism is to be transferred to Palestinian control. Although terms for the transfer remain to be negotiated and officials on both sides are unsure what it means, it has spurred optimism among Palestinians.

Adel Ghazal gave up his licence to deal in antiques during the revolt to avoid Israeli demands for tax on non-existent income. A year ago the 61-year-old Arab converted his simple restaurant by the ruins of Sebastiya into a shampoo factory.

Now he talks of getting back his antique dealers licence by the end of the year and has plans to move the shampoo business to make way for a new restaurant.

In nearby Nablus, second largest Palestinian centre after East Jerusalem, the biblical site known as "Jacob's well" has seen a steady trickle of individual and group visits since the accord was signed. The Greek Orthodox guide at the site said it previously had been months between visitors.

Above Nablus, on Mount Gerizim, a spokesman for the 772 remaining Samaritans, members of an ancient offshoot of Judaism, foresees a flow of tourists.

As Arabic speakers with centuries of co-existence with the Muslim majority and historic links to Jews, they could attract the curious on all sides.

However, there is a vast difference between potential and reality. The tourism infrastruc-

ture — hotels, guides, restaurants — is poorly developed.

During the Palestinian revolt the few hotels in towns like Ramallah closed.

According to Palestinian figures, during the 23-year occupation the number of hotel beds in Arab East Jerusalem fell from 2,400 to 1,970 while rising from a meagre 800 to 4,000 in Jewish West Jerusalem.

"It will take us time and it will not be easy," said Abul Walid Dajani, director of the Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism at Bethlehem University.

Mr. Dajani, who headed the committee advising Palestinian peace negotiators about tourism, is urging careful planning before throwing funds from the growing aid coffers into ill-conceived schemes.

"We don't want to make the mistakes others did," he said in Bethlehem, a town whose stone houses and Byzantine church over the traditional birthplace of Christ still meet expectations of pilgrims reared on Bible stories.

"For the last 40 years we have been excellent at putting things on paper but now we have to implement them."

Tourism is vital for the future of the West Bank, promising income and employment in areas with few other prospects. The first step will be a simple inventory in coming weeks of what Palestinian areas have, and need.

What information exists has been largely gathered, and held, by Israel. Although Israel did little to develop tourist sites in occupied areas — most archaeological finds date from British mandate or Jordanian rule — Mr. Dajani said it took 3 million in entry fees at three sites around Jericho last year.

Underlining the vagueness of the PLO-Israeli accord, Palestinians do not know if the boundaries of Jericho, which is to have full autonomy by next April 13, include the archaeological sites.

The dispute — with Palestinians claiming 16 times the area Israel wants to hand over — surfaced this month on the first day of negotiations over details of the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho.

The transfer of power will likely mean an early end to Israel's monopoly on licensing guides. That could produce a reciprocal agreement allowing guides from both sides to take tour groups anywhere, ushering in a new era of cooperation.

Both Israelis and Palestinians realise tourism can be boosted for everyone by increasing the number of attrac-

## Somalia and Haiti — two of many issues that test Clinton's statesmanship

By Dr. James Zogby

During the past two weeks, the Clinton administration has been hit hard by crises in Somalia and Haiti — namely, increased U.S. casualties in Somalia and accelerated violence and a breakdown of the agreement to restore democracy to Haiti. Though these were crises in and of themselves, these events also were of concern to the administration because of their timing.

The White House had already laid out an agenda for October. Elected to focus on the domestic issues Mr. Bush had ignored, Mr. Clinton had planned this fall to begin a major campaign to pass legislation on health care, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and an anti-crime bill that would address a problem of increasing concern to all Americans.

The Israel-PLO signing in Washington, an upheaval in Russia, a breakdown in the peace process in Bosnia and now Somalia and Haiti have dominated the press for more than a month — making it virtually impossible for the president to focus attention on his domestic initiatives.

As a result, the president's speeches and planned events that have been staged around the U.S. to build momentum and support for his programmes have been lost in the media. They have appeared as separate events and have gathered no momentum, while the coverage of foreign crises has gathered momentum in the media and the lion's share of the coverage.

The White House design was for Mr. Clinton's entire package of domestic initiatives to be called a "domestic security" programme. In what was to have been a major address to define domestic issues, the president was forced, out of sensitivity to foreign policy concerns, to delete a key passage from his speech.

The address was meant to refocus the political debate on "domestic security" instead of "national security," and the passage was to read:

"The challenge of our time is to give people the security they need to build lives of responsibility and achievement, the foundation of economic security, health security and personal security."

However, in light of the U.S. servicemen killed and captured in Somalia, the White House felt it would be well-advised to drop the passage from the speech.

An additional reason behind the administration's discomfort is that these crises have all hit at a time when the White House is attempting to shape new foreign policy principles, during which time the adminis-

tration has been bit from all sides for a lack of specificity. In fairness, it is difficult for the Clinton team to shape a new theory of foreign policy that fits the post-cold war world, while that "new" world is virtually unravelling in your face.

And so, the administration is being pressed to provide details while simultaneously learn how to respond to diverse crises, knowing that each new action de facto establishes policy.

While all the crises of the past few weeks have to some degree or another been inherited by the Clinton administration, this president is being held accountable for them and his public standing is being hurt by them. Again, the timing is of concern to the administration.

Although off to a rocky start during its first seven months, by September Mr. Clinton had rebounded in the polls. A Sept. 26 CNN/Gallup poll gave the president a 56 per cent positive rating and a 36 per cent negative rating — a dramatic shift in public confidence. But by Oct. 10 the numbers had shifted to 50 per cent positive and 42 per cent negative. And this negative shift is being driven almost completely by displeasure over foreign policy. The president is getting high marks for his health care proposal, but not for his handling of Somalia and Haiti.

Again, in September the public gave Mr. Clinton high grades for foreign policy (primarily in response to his handling of the crisis in Russia and the Middle East peace talks). Mr. Clinton's September foreign policy ratings were 55 per cent positive and 32 per cent negative. The numbers now stand at 40/8 positive and 52/8 negative.

Ratings and public confidence levels are important because they determine both the ability of the president to press Congress to support his more controversial initiatives and his ability to keep the press with him on issues of public importance.

The press, operating in their usual mode (like "sharks smelling blood in the water") have taken an aggressive and hostile attitude towards Mr. Clinton.

The president had not been doing well with the national television media anyway, but the elite network reporters have been extremely harsh during the past few weeks. Calling Somalia a "quagmire" (an unmistakable reference to Vietnam) and a barrage of negatives to describe the Clinton foreign policy team has not helped them shape public attitudes in favour of the president or his policies.

In fact, having inherited all

these crises from the failure of U.S. policy in the past, one must appreciate the difficulties Mr. Clinton is facing in addressing each of them.

Somalia was a gift from George Bush. From the beginning it was a compassionate, but ill-defined venture. As Mr. Clinton responded to the dual pressures to withdraw the U.S. and enforce the U.N.'s role, the direction of the mission changed. All that Mr. Clinton has done in the past two weeks is an attempt to restore the original purpose of the U.S. involvement in Somalia and to press for a definite date for full U.S. withdrawal.

In Haiti, the Clinton approach has been to press for a restoration of democracy in a country that has long been a victim of either negative U.S. meddling or, more recently, U.S. neglect.

In both cases, Mr. Clinton is burdened by a perennial factor limiting U.S. options, since there does not appear to be any public tolerance for any loss of U.S. lives. Polls show that U.S. public opinion strongly opposed the presence of U.S. troops in both countries by a margin of 2-1.

Interestingly, the only circumstances in which the public would agree to accept U.S. troops in either country would be in response to what one might term a U.S.-centric concern. This view says "Yes" to sending troops to Haiti if it will stop the flow of illegal immigrants from Haiti to the U.S. and "Yes" to troops in Somalia to protect U.S. lives that are in danger in that country. The difficulty in shaping U.S. policy in the face of such a public attitude came through this week in the most interesting of comments by one of Haiti's strongest supporters in the U.S. Congress.

Congressman Charles Rangel (Democrat from New York) has long supported U.S. involvement to restore exiled

President Bertrand Aristide and democracy to Haiti. He was critical of President Bush's failure to deal with the issue and he pushed hard to force Mr. Clinton's hand. In response to recent violence in Haiti, and aware of the lack of public support for direct U.S. military involvement, Mr. Rangel made a proposal that the U.N. send troops to Haiti to restore democracy and oust the military and police junta now ruling the country. But he added the bizarre caveat that the U.N. troops should include no American forces!

Faced by Republic critics who conveniently forget that Mr. Bush first committed the U.S. to Somalia, by Democratic critics who want no part of U.S. military involvement in Haiti and by a media that acts as if it had been elected to make foreign policy, Mr. Clinton is struggling both to shape an adequate U.S. response which protects U.S. leadership and to protect his domestic agenda — which, he knows, was the reason he was elected for in the first place.

In a way, it all seems somehow appropriate. Candidate Clinton was full of boundless energy and detailed answers on every policy question, he sketched a huge agenda for what he would do if elected and he handled the press corps with mastery. Now, entering the tenth month of his term, he has his hands as full of important foreign policy as a president could handle, a number of large-scale domestic programmes which need shepherding if they are to survive and a press corps that is out of his control. President Clinton is facing what appears to be a true test of his abilities.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## LETTERS

To the Editor:

This has reference to the letter to the editor "Misplaced help" (Jordan Times, Oct. 20, 1993) in which it is alleged that Royal Jordanian is helping others instead of our (racing) teams.

Allow me first to emphasise that maybe it was understood erroneously that RJ is sponsoring the Paul Stewart Team. In fact the team is actually promoting Royal Jordanian because it had extra sponsorship space. This space was given free to RJ Jordan and they take pride in Royal Jordanian.

From the aforementioned we should agree that Royal Jordanian should seize every international opportunity to present itself and the great country to which it belongs.

Munib Toukan,  
RJ / Public Relations,  
Amman.



## Children get cultural implants

By Mohammad Masharga

### SONGS FOR CHILDREN

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture, Amman this week will witness the opening of a workshop dealing with writing and composing songs for children.

Four working papers on the subject, to be presented by a number of professors of music at Yarmouk University and a number of poets, will be reviewed by the participants on Oct. 25 and 26.

One of the papers will deal with the experiments of other Arab and foreign nations in composing songs for children.

According to Wafa' Qousous, who is in charge of the department overseeing the works of music and theatre for children at the Ministry of Culture, the workshop will serve as a substitute for the Children's Songs Festival that was due to have taken place in Amman last year.

She told the Jordan Times that the children's song must be simple and should focus on one theme — not many — so that children can absorb it.

### AWARDS

A Syrian-born Jordanian literary critic Dr. Ihsan Abbas was among a group of international writers and intellectuals who were honoured on Oct. 20 by University of Chicago in the United States. Abbas was awarded the honorary doctorate degree in recognition of his works in culture, focusing mainly on humanitarian themes.

Dr. Abbas has contributed a great deal to the Arab culture over the past 50 years and has produced numerous books and other works that have become an integral part of contemporary Arab culture.

Dr. Abbas is well-known for his drive towards

renovation in Arab literature and his leaning towards modern poetry and the poets of the early 1950s like Nazek Al Malikah and Bader Shaker. Dr. Abbas has conducted in-depth studies of Arab heritage and re-wrote a number of well-known and valuable writings and works of other writers.

He is rightfully considered one of the most remarkable critics of Arab literature of our age.

Dr. Abbas has worked as a teacher in a number of universities in the Arab World, including the University of Jordan and the American University of Beirut.

### MUSIC AND THEATRE

The first Jordanian music week was concluded with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian folk performance presented by the Royal Jordanian Troupe for Popular Arts and the

### Amman Cultural Pulse

Al Hammoneh dance and popular singing troupe. The two troupes thrilled their audience with tastes of old and traditional dancing and singing — depicting harvest time, the work of hunters, wedding celebrations and tilling the land to the accompaniment of well-known songs and popular dabkeh.

Commenting on this traditional form of singing and dancing Samih Al Husari from Royal Jordanian (RJ) Troupe said preserving this tradition is one of the aims of his group. Dabkeh, for instance, signifies rejoicing but the performance gains added glamour by the colour of traditional dresses and the physical movements of dancers.

For his part, the director of Al Hammoneh troupe said he presented the performance with two ideas.

The first, specialising in dabkeh, traditional Palestinian music and songs because they are an integral part of the national Palestinian identity.

The second idea lies in a performance resembling a wedding celebration which requires certain movements of the body.

But he admitted that the dancers' capabilities and skills remained limited because not many artists can perform, what he called, "expressionist dancing."

The heads of the two troupes agreed that the members of their troupes are not professionals and their development requires major financial support and artistic training.

### PLASTIC ART

Amman art galleries are active these days, displaying works of several plastic artists. On display are a variety of Arab and foreign works in addition to works by Jordanian artists.

Among the latest exhibitions was one entitled "Light And Colour" in which a group of Arab and European artists presented paintings they prepared during their stay in Jordan.

Perhaps the most striking exhibition this season was that of Syrian artist Fateh Al Mudarres who presented a number of water colour works on landscapes. An exhibition by Ali Taleb of Iraq who displayed his works in Fuheis won very little attention and support from the public despite the uniqueness of his paintings.

Jordanian artist Mahmoud Taha and Iraqi artist Salman Abbas presented a joint exhibition of ceramics and paintings at Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition runs until the end of October.

Jordanian artist Salam Kanaan had presented the latests of his fine works at Alia Art Gallery, while three artists: Lucy Maro of Jordan, Janine Saaf of the Netherlands and Tete Wegelius of Finland presented their first joint exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

## Kashmir played host to Hallaj — the mystic martyr of Baghdad

By Mohammad Amin Padit  
of Nishat — Kashmir

Ten years ago, in 1983 A.D., a piece written by me on the travels of the great mystic and martyr, Al Hallaj's travel to India, entitled "From Baghdad to Kashmir" was published in the literary section of the Iraqi English daily Baghdad Observer. The article was of the nature of elementary step-by-step exploration and was to serve as an invitation to researchers and orientalists to undertake further, detailed researches into the subject. For me, the initial initiative had been provided by a short, casual reference to Al Hallaj's travels to Kashmir, Banaras and China etc. in an U.S. domiciled British author Robert Payne's book, The Holy Sword, which I had an occasion to read a decade earlier.

After the publication of my article in the English daily, Baghdad Observer of Iraq, I was able to collect and consolidate a bunch of folklore poems written by mystic Kashmiri poets which is replete with references to Mansur, the Passionate, in veneration, which I proposed to edit and publish in the form of a book, along with a detailed study and survey of Mansur's travel to India and his subsequent visit to Kashmir in 283 Hijri — 85 A.D. The matter rested there till the renewal of interest in the subject very recently. In the first week of April 1993, I got an encouraging response from the counsellor for cultural, scientific and technical cooperation, Embassy of France in India, New Delhi (Mr. Pierre Barroux) who suggested the names of three libraries in India, namely Maolana Azad Library of Aligarh Muslim University, Khuda Bhaksh Oriental Public Library, Banipur, Patna, Bihar and 'Idajyoti Institute of Religious Studies, Delhi which could help in the procurement of books on Al Hallaj especially the most authoritative work on the subject Louis Massignon, la passion d'Al-Hallaj, Paris, 192. There is also some scant information in Louis Massignon's Opera Minora and in Henry Corbin's Histoire de la Philosophie Islamique, Paris, 1964 pp. 275-76.

Fortunately, I was able to

get photocopy of relevant pages from these books, thanks due to Mr. G. Gispert-Sach, of 'Yidajyoti' (the art of learning), an institute of religious studies in old Delhi, capital of India. Portions of these books and works on Mansur-Al-Hallaj and his travels to Kashmir, Banaras, Multan, Mosura (Maushra in Pakistan) throw new lights on this subject. Islam in India and Pakistan is as old as the first decade of Hijri calendar, when an emissary of the Holy Prophet, Mohammad, (Peace be upon him) arrived by Arabian Sea and settled near Calicut (locally known as Kozhikode) in Kerala, South India. This author had the occasion of visiting this city twice first in 1955 and later in 1975. Mansur Al Hallaj visited Sind and Gujarat by the same sea-route in the eighth century of second century of Hijri calendar.

Al Hallaj continued to exercise influence, name and fame in the process of Islamisation in India. Nearly seven centuries later, subsequent to Mansur's visit to India, Feizi, one of the two brothers — the other being Abul Fadl — principal advisors of Emperor Akbar, concerned with his attempt at an Islam-Hindu religious syncretism, in explaining his plan in Persian verse, wrote:

I am wine which intoxicates the mind,  
— it is not my fault if I ferment;  
there are hundred melodies that the drunken nightingale creates,  
— just so the rose of Iraq may flower in the soil of India.

The "rose of Iraq" seems to be an allusion to the teaching, and even to the person, of Hallaj, who had been defended by the great Hanafite jurist-consult, Mujahid Al-Fa-Saani, Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi (d. 1031), a shubudi in metaphysics like Semnani and Jili. A little later, Prince Dara Shikoh, whose syncretism is even more pronounced and who founded an observatory and Dargah at Cheshmashahi in Srinagar, Kashmir, praised Hallaj by name and when his friend, the poet and philosopher, Sheikh

Sermed Qashani, was executed in Delhi for blasphemy, in 1071 H. — 1660 A.D., he went to his martyrdom as an avowed disciple of Mansur Hallaj. The literary Persian of the conquering Muslim elites, the Indian dialects of Dakhni and Urdu, and the folklore in Kashmiri continues to be associated with the movement of mystical syncretism begun by Al Hallaj.

It is out within the subject-matter of the present write-up to go into the merits or otherwise of the famous utterance of Anah-Hasq by Mansur, the great mystic of Baghdad. In such an exercise, it is necessary to be guided by the exposition attempted by the great poet of the East, Iqbal whose collection of lectures at Madras entitled "Reconstruction of Philosophical Thought in Islam," shall serve to be a forerunner in the rebuilding of thought and philosophy in the emerging Muslim World in Asia, Africa and Europe.

The main purpose of this article, however, is restricted to the subject of Mansur Hallaj's travel accounts in India as outlined in the French author — Massignon's works on Hallaj.

According to Louis Massignon's The Passion of Al Hallaj — mystic and martyr of Islam, translated from the French with a biographical foreword by Herbert Masoo (Bollingen Series XC VIII — Princeton University Press — Vol. 1, the Life of Al Hallaj):

"The capital of Qashmir (Kashmir) is the only sure point on Hallaj's itinerary, around 283 H. in the north-west of India, which we know he reached by way of the sea, either via Daybul (near present-day Karachi), or via the Balad-Al Shirk, to the east of Gujarat, between Bhuruj and Qanbaya via Daybul, he went directly up to the valley of the Indus via Mansura, Multan, Muslim towns. The detour through Gujarat (Bahmi) brought Hallaj into contact with polytheists who were already accustomed to receiving Muslim merchants, who were permitted to set up little autonomous colonies in their midst, notably at Seymur, which perhaps attracted Hallaj to come there to preach."

Under the sub-heading

"Maosura, Multan and Qashmir," the chapter "Travels and Apostolate," Massignon writes that: "To go from Samarra (Iraq) to Sindh in this era, one counted on more than five months. To go from the ports of Sindh, up towards Qashmir, one had to pass through Mansura and Multan. Mansura, the capital of Sindh, was founded under Abbasid Mansur by Ummar Bin Hafis Muhallabi. According to the great traveller, Biruni, author of Al Hind, the Umayyad Khalifa held the suzerainty of Multan, until the time of Jalal-Bin-Shayban (Qarmathian chief)."

The account of Hallaj's travels to Sindh, Mansura, Multan and Kashmir containing following references should make the historians and researchers stand up and to undertake in-depth studies in the points made therein, which in brief are as follows:

1. The method of cultural penetration at that particular point of time was Qasida, the Tafsir.

2. A.A.-b-Umar-Bin-Abdul Aziz, in 270 H., sent to the King of Ra, between the two Qashmirs, a Muslim missionary who stayed there for three years and wrote Tafsir in Hindi, an account of which was collected by Hussain Bio Amar Najrani of Basra in 288 H. He spent seventy days going from Mansura to Kashmir Asfal. (Ref. Ajaib Al Hind).

3. That from 225 H. there was a King of Usayfan: between Multan and Qashmir, a convert (Baladin).

4. That Hallaj returned from Qashmir (via Kabul-Balkh) when he was received at Tus in or around 284 H. — 896 A.D.

5. Qashmir, under the Karkutaka dynasty, had become an important intellectual centre, where Hindus and Turkish Buddhists of the neighbouring and allied state of Gandhara (Kandabar, Wayhind the capital) mingled with foreign scholars. There was an observatory there. At the court (under the Awantiwarman kings 857-886, Shankarvarma 886-904), there were religious debates held on the Thura (Torah), the Injil (Gospels), and the Zabur (Psalms), in the same period as the visits by Hallaj.

6. Hallaj's visit to Qashmir proves that he made inquiries of a doctrinal nature in India, and did not only look for more or less miraculous techniques.

7. Hallaj also tried to go to Ma Sin (China) via Tashuryan-Yarkand. He had to wind around Khurasan, for he had left for the Balad-Al-Turk.

8. Calendars for all of India were made there (Qashmir). Refer Biruni: Tahfih. The "Rope Trick" and the white magic was reportedly the reason of Husayan-Bin-Mansur Al Hallaj to have paid a visit to India, as recounted by Abu-Al-Hasan Al Muzayyan (d. 328 H. — 940 A.D.) who had recorded:

"I saw Husayan-Bin-Mansur during one of his travels, and said to him: 'Where are you going?' 'To India,' he said. 'To learn about white magic (sitr); in order to draw men to God, may He be praised and exalted by this means.' The footnotes in Herbert Mason translation contain one such note with particular reference to Kashmir. It reads as under:

86. Around 320/932, according to the traveller Abu Dulaf Misar-Bin Muhallil Khazraji (Yagut IV, 454), Barmak, of Balkh, had been raised at Qashmir, where he had been able to study medicine, astronomy and philosophy (Yagut IV, 819).

Another reference to Kashmir is contained in the account of Turughbadhi which reads as follows:

"One day, Sheikh Abdul-lah Turughbadhi of the city of Tus, had spread his tablecloth and was breaking bread with his disciples, when Mansur Hallaj arrived from the city of Qashmir, dressed in a black qaba, holding two black dogs on a leash. The sheikh said to his disciples: a young man arrayed in this way is going to come, get up all of you, and go out to him, for he does great things..."

The sheikh yielded his place to him (Hallaj) who brought his dogs to the table close to him... he ate the bread and gave some to his dogs, which shocked the disciples, who remarked to the sheikh: "Why did you let such a man, who eats with his dogs, sit in your place, a passerby whose presence here renders our entire meal impure?"

These dogs, responded the sheikh, were his self (nafs), they stayed outside him while our dogs remain inside ourselves, and we follow behind them."

This is the difference between the one who follows his dogs, and the one whom his dogs follow. His dogs are outside, and you can see them; yours are hidden. His state is a thousand times superior to yours. He desires to be in the creative will of his God, whether there be a dog there or not, he wants to direct his act towards God.

The narrative concludes with an account of Hallaj's travels to Turkistan via Qashghar and to Ma Sin (or Ma Chin — western edge of China).

This narrative of Mansur Hallaj's travels in Indian cities would be incomplete without concluding the same with the localisation of tradition, as manifested by the following quotation from Vol. II part VI — The Survival of Hallaj in India: "The existence of the madfan of Hallaj at Porto-Novo (Muhammad Bunder) in a centre of Tamil-speaking Marakkayar Shafite Muslim sailors (mixed with Tamil Labbai Muslims in Nagore) must certainly be connected with the apostolate of Nathan Shah Mazhar-Al Din (d. 411 Trichinapally) one of whose disciples, Baba Fakhr-Al-Din Sijistani, buried in Penukondah (in the district of Anantapur, the present-day Sufi centre of the presidency of Madras), is the patron-saint of 'cotton carders' (pinjaras).

This piece on Hallaj needs to be concluded with the following quotation from the English translation of the most authoritative work on Hallaj by Massignon:

"Two important villages of Gujarat, Dhahulkal and Mandal (in Jainist land), the lowly Doodwadi (dairymen) caste still bear the surname 'Ma-ur' in memory of Hallaj. Two other present-day localisations of a Hallajian survival in India, the cult of Satyapur in East Bengal and the cenotaph of Hallaj at Muhammad Bunder (Madras) appeared only much later."

The author is a member of Kashmir Forum for Human Rights.

## Diary

These are tidbits from Election Campaign '93. Not exactly your regular Diary items, but the humour is hopefully present in all of them.



IT'S A NICE SHOT: Whether purposely or by coincidence, one of Amman's Third District candidates, Faris Nabulsi, managed to hang the right banner at exactly the right time. The photo above, taken by Jordan Times photographer Aynsly Floyd, shows just how appropriate the banner is. It says: "The future of our children is in our deputies' hands." It should have read "...in our policemen's..."

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SCHIZOPHRENIA WINS: The Islamic Action Front (IAF) felt it was necessary to pre-empt criticism before it became banner headlines. In a press release telefaxed to newspapers Sunday, a spokesman for the IAF refuted reports by some "foreign correspondents" in Amman that claimed the front's traditional slogan "Islam is the solution" was being overlooked by many Islamist candidates, contrary to what happened in the 1989 campaign. "If this slogan was absent from the banners and literature of some candidates for technical reasons this does not mean that we have dropped it," the spokesman said. "We reiterate again that the general slogan of our national campaign is 'yes...Islam is the solution.' Someone who does not intend to vote for this slogan on Nov. 8 commented that the addition of the word 'Yes' may be aimed at 'assuring the government that the Islamists will abide by their sworn policy of saying 'yes' when they actually mean 'no.'"

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FROM WAR TO PEACE: Nimr Al Haj Salman Assaf, an IAF candidate for the Fifth District, has interesting credentials. Not only does he have a Bachelor's Degree in industrial physics from City University in London, and had served as member of the Islamic Student Union while studying in England; he also has had the "honour of participating in Islamic Jihad in Afghanistan," as his campaign ad says. "Over and above that" his newspaper ad adds, Assaf "was arrested and charged with membership and funding of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) for nine months until he was released as part of the general amnesty." If anyone wonders how the candidate could afford everything on his long list (education at City University, fighting in Afghanistan and spending nine months in jail), his ad offers the answer to all. He now "works in trade and real estate investments/private sector."

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USEFUL NUMBERS: If anyone wants to sound smart about the elections, here are a few numbers to throw about nonchalantly with guaranteed results. The government has made JD 279,500 from registration fees. An aggressive advertisement campaign in newspapers would cost a candidate about JD 60,000 (that is if they advertise in the three local Arabic newspapers and a couple of the weeklies). The lowest number of candidates vying for parliamentary seats (for Muslims) is in Maan Governorate where 19 candidates are contesting five seats. For Christians it is in the Balqa Governorate where there are only four candidates for the two Christian seats. The highest number of candidates fighting for the same seat (Muslims) is in the Zarqa Governorate where 54 candidates are scrambling for six seats.

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APPEALING POWER: Akhbar Al Usbou, owned and operated by Issa Rimouni, a former parliamentarian representing Jerash, makes no secret of its interest in seeing the boss reelected. This week's issue dedicated the first and last pages of its free copy to world news but dedicated the inside pages to the achievements of its owner. The fact that it decided to distribute the paper free of charge is to its credit for readers cannot be expected to pay for election propaganda serving only one person. Anyway, the Islamic Action Front, which announced its support for a candidate also from the Reimouni family for the Jerash district (in the hope that he would pull the rug from under the media tycoon's feet) had another field day when Issa took his campaign a step further and placed an ad in one of the local Arabic dailies. "He was pleading for votes, we think he feels the pinch," an IAF insider commented. The ad said: "I plead with you to remember who stood by you honestly over the past fifteen years and was never thrifty with his money spending it on installing electricity in your towns and building clubs and unions." "I promise you to continue giving and to help everyone because becoming a parliamentarian is not my aim but I strive to serve you honourable people." And as if to underline his message he concludes: "During the last parliamentary session I met 86,000 citizens of Jerash and I swear by God that I served those I could... I felt sorrow and pain when my attempts at serving one of you did not succeed."

Nermeen Murad



## Assembling PCs

By Jean-Claude Elias

Personal computers (PCs), like most modern electronic equipment have a modular design. They are made of several, discrete units, each with a well defined function contributing to form the whole system. These units, or modules, make it easier for the technical people to perform repairs and maintenance, since testing, fixing or eventually replacing a single module is obviously simpler, quicker and cheaper than a complete machine.

Modularity also contributes to making more flexible systems. It allows you to choose the type of monitor that is most adapted to your needs, taste and budget and connect it to your PC, whatever the brand or specifications. You can, for instance, purchase a powerful 486 computer and still prefer to use a simple monochrome, nine-inch screen if it is all you need and you do not want to jam your desk with an oversized, heavy colour model.

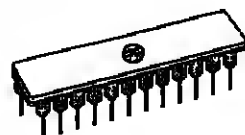
PC modularity goes well beyond the fact that the monitor is a separate unit. A standard computer can be broken down into a list that would include the floppy disk drive, the hard disk drive, the keyboard, the display controller card, the mother board, the mouse and the memory to name only a few.

The widespread availability of the above mentioned modules has created two markets. One that offers PC owners an appealing array of add-on items that can greatly enhance their existing systems and another that makes assembling a PC from scratch a very tempting but deceptively simple task.

The first case presents less problems for it actually adds a significant value to existing and satisfactorily working machine. If some add-on modules are sometimes mere gadgets, others can really increase the power, flexibility and functionality of a PC. The infrared mouse is an item one could easily live without while the CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory) is slowly but surely becoming an essential part of a modern PC.

The second case, that of PCs assembly, has created a more complicated situation. Initially it presents two important advantages. Firstly you can practically "build" your computer by selecting yourself, and from different manufacturing sources, the discrete modules that would be assembled to make the final product, the computer. Secondly a tailor-made, assembled PC is generally less expensive than a branded, finished

## chip talk



machine.

Before reputable PC manufacturers release a product from factory, extensive quality control and burn-in tests are done, on both the modules and the finished, assembled product. The tests are to make sure that all the items work well together and that the machine can withstand a certain level of stress: Working temperature, humidity, shock levels, power fluctuations, etc...

Purchasing a locally or home assembled PC automatically means that an essential part of the testing has not been done. Moreover, most manufacturers of modules do not apply serious testing to their products, knowing these will be integrated in one cabinet with other modules. If anything wrong occurs, the user can always put the blame on "other" modules.

Does this mean that an assembled PC is less reliable than a branded, finished machine? The answer is yes. However, the price factor largely contributes to stimulate the local assembly market. In Jordan, this operation has steadily grown during the past two years. With the highly competitive situation most PC distributors are facing in the country, offering low cost machines has become a priority.

In spite of weaknesses like cases of incompatibility, excessive noise level, electrical interferences and general failures, locally assembled PCs are doing well in Jordan. Vendors of such equipment argue that the risk factor is minimal and that the purchase is worth every dinar the client pays.

Currently at the Amman Computer Expo, organised by the Jordan Computer Society and running till Friday Oct. 22 at the Cars Exhibition Hall, airport road, one has the opportunity to see originally branded PCs as well as locally assembled machines. The rent is a matter of personal choice.

## The infamous secretary

By E. Yaghi

Myrtle the turtle worked for an executive as his secretary. She took her job quite seriously and could be seen promptly arrive each morning for work one hour late. Well, of course, she slept half an hour more than her alarm (beauty sleep) and then pasted a new face on and teased her hair into a mop of disarray in the hopes that some unlucky creature would become spellbound by her hypnotic beauty and marry her at once. She never polished her nails before leaving for work because there was always time for this consuming chore in the office. After all, she had to do something to earn her wages! She simply adored the other female employees in the same building and could often be seen "entertaining" them in her own office whenever the boss made his frequent trips outside the blue glass facaded building.

One fine autumn day a potential client approached Myrtle's desk which was cluttered with various pieces of work her mean employer always seemed to bother her with and said: "Good morning, Miss. Is Mr Bon in?" Myrtle sneered at him under her caked mascara, raised a cup of black tea to her lips to which she was highly addicted, took a long noisy sip and said: "May I ask who wishes to see him?"

My name is Marwan and just tell him an old friend of his, who is also a prospective client, wants to see him!" She tried her best to let her annoyance shine through like a streak of lightning in a raging storm and replied in the nastiest voice she managed to find: "Well, I'm afraid that my boss isn't in at the moment. Come back in half an hour."

Naturally, she had summed up the client in a second's time, before he uttered the first word and immediately decided that he definitely did not fit the prescription of husband material, thus the cold shoulder and hasty brush off. His clothes were old fashioned, his shoes not shined and his (worst of all) grey hair cropped too close for appeal.

Half an hour later, the client returned to Myrtle's office only to hear the disdainful reply to his query about his friend. "No, he did not come yet. He rushed off to another meeting and won't be back for another hour and a half."

She said this to the interruption of some tasty gossip from one of her female colleagues who sat next to her immersed in the latest saga of a fallen comrade. Highly perturbed that anyone dare invade her tete-a-tete she did her best to keep from screaming and when noting the disappointed look on the stranger's face as he turned to go, she sighed with disgust: "These people who have nothing to do but bother others are so pathetic! Why doesn't he just get lost?"

Two hours later, the client-friend sauntered in the office and once more asked: "Well, did Mr. Bon come yet?"

This time, Myrtle had herself deeply immersed in reading the want ads and obituaries, (the only sections of the paper she ever bothered to read) and replied in the iciest voice she could muster: "No, as a matter of fact, he's not in right now. He had a luncheon date with the minister of commerce and won't be back for several hours."

She just hated persistent nobodies. They ruined her whole busy day. Why couldn't everyone who entered her office take note of her hectic and overworked situation and have a little mercy? She yawned and forgot to cover her mouth with her hand (portraying a row of sharp crooked teeth). She was so sleepy because she had been awake since 7 this morning. It would be so nice if she could take a little snooze before that pest of a boss returned. She laid her bushy streaked hair down on her desk and before long, snored to her hearts content until she heard the footsteps of her employer coming down the hall. She grabbed a pen, some papers, and put on her glasses, just in time to look extremely busy.

"Good afternoon, Myrtle," he said with a cheery voice. Did you finish the last assignment I gave you? It's due by tomorrow. We can't afford to be late!"

"No sir. I've had so many interruptions today and so much work to catch up on that I didn't get to it yet, but don't you worry, sir. I'll have it ready before tomorrow!"

"That's my girl! Did I have any phone calls or visitors while I was gone today?"

"No, sir. Everything has been unusually quiet." She neglected to tell him of his client-friend who made numerous attempts to see him or the fact that she had so wittingly unplugged the telephone so as not to be plagued by those inconsiderate pests who kept calling. And while her boss walked with a brisk step into his office to busy himself with his own personal paperwork, she quickly re-connected the phone and decided to do one most urgent chore before tackling the requested work of her employer.

She puffed as displeased shot of wind and complained: "Men! They think women never tire and have absolutely no mercy for us secretaries. Does he think it's easy to sit at a desk all day long and answer the phone and take messages and receive clients plus do all the clerical work that there is to do? Why, I go home exhausted from all the errands I run." She pulled open her desk drawer, gave another wide yawn and declared: "Hmmm, what colour nail polish shall I use today? Oh, yes, I think that a dark purple will do fine. But, oh, if only I hadn't broken one of my nails when I opened the window for some fresh air! What menial jobs I'm employed to do! What sacrifices I must make."

So she busily painted her very long fingernails which resembled the claws of a chicken and sat back in satisfaction. She had just finished when her boss opened the door enough to stick out his head and inquire: "Myrtle, have you started working on that important business yet?"

She blew daintily on her nails and then announced in a shy drawl: "In a minute, sir. Don't worry. I'll be done before leaving."

After her nails dried, she took out her compact mirror, checked the paint situation on her face, powdered her nose, frizzled her hair, and yawned again. She went to the batch of papers which demanded her immediate attention and began to decipher it. Much, much later, her boss opened the door again and yelled: "Myrtle, you're snoring! Did you finish? It's getting late!"

All the coffee and tea she consumed hadn't kept her awake, she endeavoured once more to complete her task before her and at last, in complete exasperation retorted to her heartless slave driver: "The work was more than I expected! It's late and I must be heading home. Back tomorrow to finish the rest."

The next morning, one hour late as usual, Myrtle hustled into the executive office and settled herself down on her familiar chair when Mr. Bon's door again opened and in an evidently irritated voice ordered: "Myrtle, come here at once!"

She hastened into his office. There, sitting on a chair next to the executive's large oval desk was that pest that had insisted on seeing her boss the day before. She noted the red cloud of rage that covered Mr. Bon's face and a down turn of his mouth where a smile mostly bled and stammered: "Yes, sir! Is there anything I can do for you?"

He shouted: "Is this man sitting here? Do you know who he is?"

"Yes, sir. No, I have no idea who he is."

"He's my father-in-law. How many times did he try to see me yesterday and you ignored him and never gave me any of his messages?"

"Your father, sir? I'm terribly sorry! I had no idea! Please overlook my mistake!"

"Indeed I will. I overlook it with your instant dismissal. Get your things and don't ever let me see you even near my office again! You are an imbecile and the worst secretary I ever had and a disgrace to the name!"

It took Myrtle nearly an hour to clear out all her make-up and nail polish from her desk. It took even longer to say farewell to her favourite gossips. Did she ever find other employment after her disgraceful exit from Mr. Bon's office? Indeed she did! For if you look not too carefully, you will find one in almost every business office. She's not difficult to spy. Just look for a frowning face, a haughty attitude of more importance than the boss himself, that eternal black cup of tea, and a visiting gossip and you will have found a secretary name Myrtle.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ★ An Italian architect made full use of a metal prospecting device to discover a treasure comprising 6,000 gold and silver pieces that dated back to the Roman Age. The fortune was estimated at \$15,000.
- ★ On July 4, 1953 masses of snow fell down on one of California cities. Each mass weighed nearly 22 kilograms.
- ★ In Rotterdam (Holland) there is a museum that shows all the ceremonial functions already made in the history of taxes.
- ★ India used "the monstrous crocodile" to clean up the waters of the Ganges River from wastes.
- ★ A Japanese last year invented shoes for cats fitted with special soles that would enable them to remove dusts from the floors.
- ★ A German company has produced "a train toy" sold at \$194,130. It is made of 18 carat gold and decked with precious stones.

★ ★ ★

### LET'S LEARN ARABIC SOME POLITE REMARKS

- Please remember me to your family.  
Min fadlak baligh salami lil'osra.
- Thanks, I will.  
Shukran, sawfa ahmil lahoni at tabiya.
- Have a good time/nice time.  
Arjoon laka waktan momti'an.
- Thanks.  
Mashkooor.
- Have a good holiday.  
Atamanna laka ijaza sa'eeda.
- Thanks a lot.  
Shukran jazzeelan.
- I hope you have a good time.  
Atamanna laka waktan tayyeban.
- Thank you.  
Ashkorak.
- Good luck.  
Hazzan sa'eedan.
- Congratulations.  
Tahannena al kalbiya.
- Best wishes for a speedy recovery.  
Tamaniyati al kalbiya bish shifaa al sajjil.

★ ★ ★

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE HICCUPS

Everyone must be familiar with this condition, which can sometimes be most distressing if it refuses to stop. It is usually due to an irritation of the stomach (hence the association with alcoholic drink), which causes a spasmodic violent contraction of the breathing muscles resulting in the familiar 'hic'. There are many popular dodges for curing hiccups and one of these will usually work. If an attack develops when the stomach is empty, especially after a drink — such as a "cocktail" — one, or better two, glasses of water will often cut it short, and so sometimes will a little food. Holding the breath for as long as possible with reasonable comfort is also quite effective. Two lumps of sugar soaked in vinegar will often bring about a cure, or half a wineglass of vinegar with an equal quantity of water may be taken as an alternative. In some cases pulling on the tongue, or pressing on the eyeballs through the closed lids will bring relief.

### TIME FOR FUN

- When Tiger Kelsey lost his temper, he resembled a typhoon.  
"Tiger," murmured his girlfriend Lil. "Tiger, honey, may I give you some advice?"  
"Sure, Lil, sure."  
"When you lose your temper, count to ten."  
Fifteen minutes later the sounds of fighting and screaming, moans and groans drifted into the house. Lil ran outside to see what had happened. To her horror an unconscious man lay on the sidewalk and standing over him with clenched fists was Tiger.  
Lil stared angrily at Tiger.  
"He called me stupid and I was red," sputtered Tiger.  
"Didn't you count to ten as I said?" admonished Lil.  
"Yeah, I counted to ten, said Tiger defensively. But he never got up."
- Doctor: How is your wife getting along with her reducing diet?  
Husband: Just fine — she disappeared last week!
- Mandy: Did your father promise you something if you raked leaves?  
Andy: No, but he promised me something if I didn't!

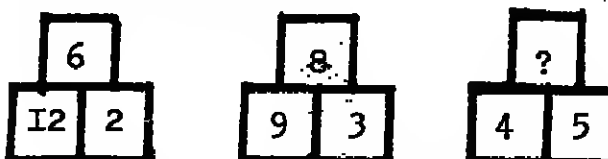
### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

- BANK: A rather straightforward dream. An empty bank signifies losses. Tellers paying out money is a warning against carelessness in business matters, unless you were yourself receiving or depositing funds, in which case you can expect some form of money luck.
- COLLISION: This dream is telling you that you'd better take positive action in regard to making a decision. If you don't trust your own judgment, seek friendly (or professional) advice but stop dithering.

### PUZZLES

- A) Insert the next letter in the series:  
A D A E A G A I A M A —  
★ ★ ★
- B) Insert the word in the brackets that can be prefixed by any of the letters on the left.  
S C  
D M  
P T  
W ( . . . )  
★ ★ ★

C) Insert the missing number:



## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 21

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Cards

8:30 Coach

11:10 Yes Minister

Dirty Tricks

The Economy Drive

Julie the basketball coach and coach Hayden keep playing tricks on each other, but these tricks become annoying.

11:30 Final Round of Asian World Cup 1994

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Saturday, Oct. 23

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Faces and Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Strays

Starring: Timothy Busfield and Kathleen Quinlan

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week The Taste For Killing

Starring: Jason Batman and Henry Thomas

Friday, Oct. 22

8:30 E.N.G

Ways And Means

9:30 Faces And Places

Sunday, Oct. 24

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Thirty something

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary

11:10 Golden Palace

Remember the Golden Girls: Sophie, Rose, Blanche and Dorothy? They are in business now in a new series. Their dreams of fortune and fame drive them to buy aid manage. The Golden Palace Hotel.

Monday, Oct. 25

8:30 Delta

First Time Again

Delta enjoys a new date. Well, he is not really new. Eugene was her boyfriend when they were kids.

9:10 The House Of Elliott

On the business front, the Elliott sisters join the House of Jack Duroque, the famous fashion designer and dress-maker. On the private front, the two sisters still have to come to grips with the fact that they eventually have to meet their half-brother.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Chancer

Prison and the separation from his girlfriend. Jo have

make the Chancer more mature. Now, he is drawn into battle to save a bankrupt state home by converting it into a gambling casino with little help from Anna and Jimmy Blake!

Tuesday, Oct. 26

8:30 People Next Door

The Walters celebrate Halloween. The costume party's fun spills over and out to include the People Next Door.

9:10 Bram New Life

Holding a wedding sounds very nice. But it proves difficult when Barbara, with three children and Rogers with two go down to the nitty-gritty details.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Classic Film — Under Current

Wednesday, Oct. 27

8:30 Head Of The Class

9:10 View Point 92 — Lemurs and holes in the sky

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Woman Named Jackie



## The Firm — a lawyer's dilemma

**Tom Cruise — Mitch**  
**Jeanne Tripplehorn — Abby**  
**Gene Hackman — Avery**  
**Ed Harris — Wayne**  
**Holly Hunter — Tammy**  
**David Strathairn — Ray**  
**Producers: John Davis/Scott Rudin**  
**Director: Sydney Pollack**  
**Based on John Grisham's book The Firm**  
**Paramount Pictures 1993**

Mitch, one of the top five students of Harvard Law School's graduating class, has every hot shot law firm in the U.S. coming after him. A small law firm in Memphis entices Mitch with an offer that pays 20 per cent more than his highest offer, a Mercedes car, a house, and repayment of his student loan bills. They also offer Mitch a sense of closeness... of family.

Mitch whose father was killed in a coal-mining accident, his mother living in a trailer and his brother in prison on a felony conviction is overwhelmed. His wife, Abby, less so. However, they decide to take the offer and move unknowingly to Memphis to a bugged home, car and phone.

A few weeks into the job, two of the firm's partners are killed in a boat explosion off the Grand Caymen Islands. FBI officers track Mitch and plant doubt in his

head as to the several unexplained deaths in the firm. In a bid to recruit Mitch to give information on his colleagues and their clients, the FBI informs him that the firm's chief activity is doing business for the mafia.

Working with the FBI would get Mitch disbarred since he would violate the law profession oath which foremost emphasises client/lawyer confidentiality. And working for the firm would result ultimately in his arrest when the whole firm goes down. To add to Mitch's dilemma the FBI promises to release on parole his brother, Ray, but, the firm has taken their own precautions to keep their new rookie in line by setting him up with a prostitute during a business trip.

The firm revolves around Mitch McDeer played by Tom Cruise. Despite the movie's all star cast, the other roles are basically support roles to Mitch and his story.

Abby's role who Mitch admits has an enormous effect on him and who is truly the one who perceives Mitch's inner conflict remains undeveloped. Her presence bears no significant influence on Mitch's decisions. If we want to, we can believe Mitch's excuse of Abby's previous wealthy living, which she gave up when she married him, as his reason for his 24-hour work schedule. But, Abby herself does not buy it.

Of course her lack of development hinders any development of the relationship between Abby and Mitch. There are times when the conversation between the two seems stilted and awkward. Telling Abby about



Tom Cruise in the movie The Firm

his run-in with the nameless prostitute further destroys the relationship — a conversation Mitch had to have because the firm was using the incident as a blackmailing tool to keep Mitch in line.

Similarly Mitch only turns to his imprisoned brother whom he has not seen for years only when he discovers he is dealing with crooks. It is Ray who sends Mitch to an investigative detective, who is later killed... but

## FILM REVIEW

who's secretary, Tammy, helps Mitch.

Even Gene Hackman the most developed of all the "support" characters, who wonderfully portrays Avery, the dissipated lawyer, becomes a reflection of what Mitch would have become if he had stayed with the firm.

The characters Mitch deals with seem to be only pieces for moving the story forward without any special attention being given to the growth of their characters and their contribution to Mitch's growth. So when the two-and-a-half-hour movie comes to an end and there is a changed Mitch, whose inner conflict is resolved, questions arise on how.

If Ray was the catalyst which helped Mitch come to terms with his family and poverty, the movie did not fully explore this conflict. One can only assume that Mitch's dealing with crooks made the Harvard graduate aware that the world he aspired to become part of was no different than the world Ray lived in — and there was nothing to be ashamed of in his previous world.

If the movie's underlying theme is overlooked and attention is directed only at the story, The Firm succeeds in portraying a lawyer's dilemma and the means he uses to solve his dilemma while keeping his oath to himself and the law.

By Najwa Najjar-Kort

## A startling perspective on the king who lost the colonies

By Michael Kuchars

The Associated Press  
 STAMFORD, Conn. — George III was more than the king who lost the colonies.

Audiences will be startled to discover a gallant, almost heroic figure in Alan Bennett's intriguing *The Madness Of George III*, now touring the United States courtesy of Great Britain's Royal National Theatre. And in Nigel Hawthorne, they will find an actor who gives a gallant, almost

heroic performance as the monarch who struggles against a mental affliction that Bennett suggests was physiological and not psychological.

Yet this fascinating evening of theatre won't be seen on Broadway. The play's stop at the rich forum here, its American premiere, will be followed by engagements in Brooklyn, Baltimore and Boston before the production returns to London in November.

The Madness Of George

III is not a history lesson, but rather the portrait of a simple, stubborn man being dragged through pain by a cabal of politicians and physicians. Bennett portrays them as ambitious men, more intent of gaining power or money for themselves than in finding a cure for their king.

As staged by Nicholas Hytner and designed by Mark Thompson, the play has the look and feel of a historical pageant, humanised by the king's suffer-

ing. From his first appearance in his military finery to his unnerving descent into madness while dressed in a cabal of politicians and dirty stocking cap. George Anchors the play.

His mental illness materialises in fits and starts as peculiarities that the playwright drops suddenly into George's conversation. Hawthorne carries off the man's increasing lunacies with the skill of a high-wire performer working without a net.

And his horrific torture at the hands of doctors determined to bleed, burn and purge him of his sickness is unflinchingly portrayed by Hawthorne, who never lets the audience forget the man behind the crown. The actor invests the king with such a sympathetic spirit that it is impossible not to root for him during his travails.

"When you get to know somebody, you do form an attachment and I certainly did with George," Hawthorne said in an interview.

"And not just knowing what he went through when he was ill, but also his loyalties. He had a great loyalty to his wife, Charlotte."

"He was an honest man, really honest, and with the colonies he felt that they belonged to us and therefore, they must pay taxes," Hawthorne added. "He never came to America, and had he, maybe he would have seen things in a proper light. And he wouldn't have made so

many mistakes. He certainly blundered, but I don't think he was a villain. He was foolish unto himself."

George dominates the play so completely that the rest of the characters almost seem like props, theatrical devices to illuminate the king and Hawthorne's bravura performance.

Still, impressions are made by Julian Wadham as the icy, alcoholic Prime Minister William Pitt and Nick Sampson as the Prince of Wales, George's overea-

ger offspring ready to take over from his ailing father.

Hytner, best known as the director of *Miss Saigon*, has staged *The Madness Of George* with a flourish. Designer Thompson has placed the action within two large gold picture frames, with many of the scenes looking like paintings that have come to life. He also utilises a wide staircase that fills the stage, a provocative effect that — with a minimum of fuss — evokes the grandeur of court life.

## Billy Idol just wants to have fun in hi-tech age

By Dean Goodman

REUTERS  
 NORTH HOLLYWOOD, California — Although Billy Idol's latest album is being slammed by the critics, the British rocker says he's enjoying himself and trying to rise "to a new level."

In contrast to its predecessor, *Charmed Life*, which reached number 12 on the U.S. charts, his latest album, *Cyberpunk* (Chrysalis/EMI), has plummeted. It debuted at 48 and quickly slipped down the top 200.

Critics roasted *Cyber-*

*punk*, which painted a Clockwork Orange picture of the future by mixing Apple Macintosh technology with 'Idol's curious opinions.

The first single was a dance version of the velvet underground's *Heroin*, while the follow-up was about the 1992 Los Angeles riots, called *Shock To The System*.

Other songs deal with U.S. government oppression and the age of destruction. A few chants and soundbites are thrown in by a man better known for

raunchy hits like *Rebel Yell* and *White Wedding* and videos featuring scantily clad women.

Is he finally, at the age of 37, acting out Johnny Rotten's observation of him as "The Perry Como of punk" and taking a more urbane view of life as befits his age? No way, says Idol, referring to one of the videos he filmed for *Heroin*.

"One of them's definitely got me with three chicks in a hot tub, so don't worry. People criticise you for one thing, and then when you move away from it they get

upset you're not doing it. It's funny," he said in a recent interview with Reuters.

"Shock To The System" was originally going to be about God's role in proving the fallibility of the Pope by way of Galileo's astronomical discoveries, but then the riots broke out on the first night of recording, and a new idea was born.

"From my bouse you could watch them," Idol said in between rehearsals for a European tour as the support for Bon Jovi.

"It was like LA (Los

Angeles) replaying the Gulf War, it was weird, some weird karma, rent-a-thug. The government, the enemy of the people, is attacked by the people it really fears: Its own people," Idol said.

Emboldened by such technological and popular revolutions, Idol applied a do-it-yourself attitude to *Cyberpunk*. He halved its cost by making it at home with his band, which included living colour bassist Doug Wimbish, and by using software that turned his Macintosh into a recording

desk. But the finished product is not, as one might imagine, some soulless array of synthesizers and sequencers. The computer was a means to an end, and the humans were firmly in charge. But Idol shies away from any "pioneer" tag.

"I'm just enjoying myself, mate," he says. "I'm trying to take myself to a new level...you've got to keep moving, you've got to keep doing things, you've got to keep yourself alive first before you can do anything for anybody else."

While other 1970s' punk rockers are penning their memoirs or decaying at an artistic impasse, Idol has kept moving by catering to mainstream pop tastes while retaining his endearing cocky demeanor. He's even let his trademark spiky coiffure grow into an impressive set of dreadlocks.

"That's what punk rock's all about," he says, explaining his enduring appeal. "It's taking whatever you had and using it, and not really worrying if it was better or worse than what somebody else did."

"All I had to do, I realised, was be Billy Idol. I'm not trying to be Mick Jagger. I'm not trying to be Jim Morrison. I'm not trying to be Johnny Rotten. I'm not into competition. I think that's really important."

Idol often refers to the fun aspect and indicates he's just a simple lad after a good time.

"You've only got limited abilities really. I think (David) Bowie said he's always battling with his mediocrity. Christ, if he's battling with it, what do you think I'm doing?" he said.

## TV Asia broadcasts to Europe, North America

By Max De Lotbiniere

LONDON — Known and loved by millions worldwide for his wide range of film roles spanning comedy, musicals and melodrama, no star in the firmament of Asian films shines as brightly as that of Amitabh Bachchan. Now, the U.K.-based satellite TV station TV Asia, is literally taking Bachchan and his films to the heavens.

The satellite station, which started broadcasting to the U.K. and across Europe from its base in London in July 1992, has received Bachchan's blessing and, more importantly, access to the back catalogue of his films. Endorsement from someone of his stature is worth a great deal to the fledgling satellite station. In the short term, the station must persuade its potential European market of over 2 million people of South Asian origin to buy a satellite dish and the decoder — and to purchase a £12 (£18) annual subscription.

TV Asia offers a mix of talk shows, news, music and, above all, movies. So far, the company claims that 32,000 homes now receive TV Asia, 2,000 short of its launch target, but encouraging nevertheless.

The company is not limiting itself to Europe. This summer TV Asia started transmitting across North America. Chief executive, Faisal Sherjan, is confident that the disparate but well-off Asian community will make enthusiastic viewers.

The ultimate market, of

course, is Asia itself and that is where Sherjan's sights are set. "What we want to do is set up a base in the U.K.," said Sherjan, explaining the TV Asia marketing concept. "Once we've got a core market to Britain, we can go global."

Although the subcontinent and Far East are a natural market for TV Asia, the company's cautious approach makes sense. Competition for what will be one of the next century's most lucrative TV markets is already fierce. The world's most powerful media moguls have turned their attention from the U.S. and Europe to Asia and are preparing to do battle for a share of a massive viewing population that stretches from the Gulf of Arabia to Japan.

Rupert Murdoch, newspapers-to-satellite tycoon, recently took a dominant share of Star TV, the pan-Asia satellite station based in Hong Kong — with a potential audience of 3 billion. Meanwhile, satellite operators are in a cut-throat fight to get their satellites into the overcrowded section of space that serves the region.

What makes the Asian market a media analyst's dream is its potential. Satellite TV has had to compete with well-established terrestrial TV networks in the U.S. and Europe. The fight to gain a respectable market share has been a long, expensive one. In contrast, television across much of Asia is in its infancy. Only a small percentage of homes

have a TV.

More importantly, the national TV networks that are received are of poor quality and, for the most part, under tight government control. With such limited competition, all Mr. Murdoch and his colleagues need to do is set up their satellite stations and wait for economic growth in the region to do the rest. They predict that by the end of the century, cheap TVs and satellite dishes will outnumber radios.

Meanwhile, TV Asia admits it has a lot to learn. Transmitting space on the Astra satellite that serves Europe is scarce and, according to Sherjan, the channel had to go on the air only hours after it was allocated transmission times. "You don't wait around," he said. "That's how this business works." The rush meant the station's staff learned as they went along. After a year, most of the teething troubles have been ironed out. Nevertheless, Sherjan stresses that TV Asia has been committed to a carefully thought-out programming policy.

"What we do not want to do is foster a ghetto mentality among the Asian community," he explained, pointing out that current affairs programmes and talk shows examine issues that affect society as a whole, not just Asians. He also believes that TV Asia can strengthen a community that is aware of its own language and ethnic divisions. He points to the Asian



Faisal Sherjan hopes, in the near future, to transmit his TV Asia programmes throughout Asia

press, which, although very strong in the U.K., is limited to the main language groups of Urdu, Hindi and Gujarati. TV Asia includes all these language speakers in its audience by mixing English, the lingua franca, with an equal share of each.

Editorially, TV Asia is keenly aware of the religious and political traditions within the community.

Sherjan is confident that news reporting has struck the right balance. "The destruction of the Ayodhya mosque in northern India last year was a special test for us," he recalled. "We had to steer clear of any angle or bias. We certainly didn't broadcast 'score sheets' of who had killed whom because that would have been inflammatory."

Our policy is to desensitise almost any incident."

Sherjan is equally proud of the example of unity set by TV Asia itself. "Our chairman is Indian. I am Pakistani. We have East African Asians on staff. We are all working together in a visible field of business."

The figurehead of Amitabh Bachchan also bridges inter-community divisions. As Sherjan points out, Bachchan is an icon for Pakistanis as much as for Indians. The station has access to the star through his brother Ajitabh Bachchan, who is TV Asia's chairman. Ajitabh also has links with one of India's largest film distribution companies, Friends India, which is a major supplier of exclusive films to the station.

One of TV Asia's most attractive offers to subscribers is its World Premiers. Each month the station claims to premier a new Asian film at the same time as it is released in Indian cinemas and before it is released on video. In addition, the station says, it broadcasts seven and a half hours of movies every day in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil and Bengali, drawing on a library of over 600 films.

Next in popularity after cinema releases are TV soap operas. While India is the home of the Asian film industry, the most popular soaps come from Pakistan. TV Asia promises its viewers at least four hours a day of the top dramas. Sherjan is quick to stress that the

station does not just relay films and soaps. It has made a commitment to producing its own programming, which, he claims, accounts for 30 per cent of output — more than any other satellite channel of its kind.

He admits that TV Asia has a way to go to bring in-house programmes — such as news and sports coverage and talk shows — up to the high standards set by terrestrial TV stations.

"We are not there yet," he said, "but we are getting there."

Cost is the main hurdle. While the relaying of films and soaps is relatively cheap, news and current affairs coverage requires a major investment. The test TV Asia faces in its second year is whether it can generate vital advertising revenue from its audience. On paper, the figures look good.

It is estimated that Asians in the U.K. alone have a combined income of £5 billion (£7.5 billion). TV Asia's demographic survey puts 54 per cent of the population in the top advertising spending bracket — indicating high earning and spending potential. Homeowners account for 64 per cent of the population, and a further 21 per cent run their own business.

The challenge is to persuade advertisers who have never used the TV medium before to branch out. Sherjan is confident that businesses within the community will want to advertise, but he has yet to persuade the major advertisers

to target their products at the Asian community.

The formula should work, says Kate Buckley, a U.K.-based satellite TV analyst. "It is hardest for a satellite channel that has a wide-ranging audience. An identifiable niche market, like the Asian community, is ideal. The channel can show that it is going direct to the target homes and the advertiser gets a guaranteed audience."

TV Asia in the U.K. and Europe still has a major hurdle to overcome. It has not been allocated a prime time evening slot on the Astra satellite system. This means that the station has to go off the air between 6 p.m. and midnight, when most of its audience wants to watch. With fierce competition for satellite transmission space, it looks as though TV Asia will have to wait until a new Astra satellite goes into orbit later next year before it can air during the prime time slot. In the meantime, Sherjan and his team are looking to the North American and Caribbean market — an estimated 1.5 million homes could tune into the station from the Galaxy 3 satellite system.

When the call comes through that TV Asia has got the satellite space it needs, Sherjan won't hang around. The company has done its groundwork. It is ready to go anywhere. He is convinced that the day when Asians can switch to TV Asia in Asia is not far off — World News Link.



## 'Organoids' to supplement failing organs

By Jean Chabrier

**The idea of this area of research is not to create artificial organs, but to develop living structures, able, after implantation, to replace a failing organ in all of its functions. This work is being carried out by a team at the Pasteur Institute.**

PARIS — First of all, there were "artificial" organs such as the "artificial kidney", complex, expensive machinery which is hard on the patient but makes it possible to compensate for the failure in the kidney's function of purifying the blood. Today, it is the only means of survival, apart from a transplant.

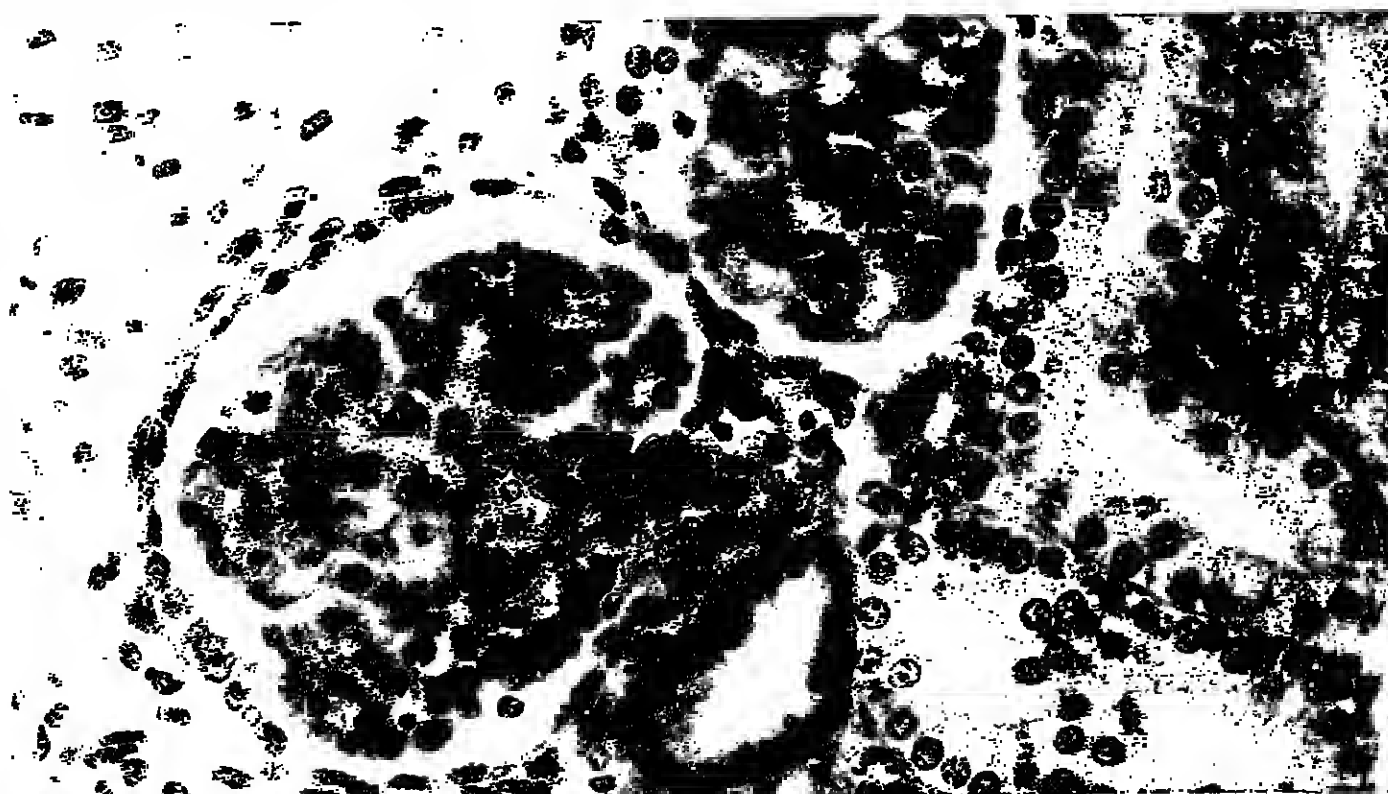
Considerable work has also been carried out to produce an "artificial heart," which is no less complex and even more risky and which can only be used temporarily until, in this case too, a hypothetical transplant can be performed.

In the last thirty years, it has been possible to master the operational and biological techniques of organ transplants "very" or "fairly" satisfactorily, depending on the organ in question.

The numerous difficulties have either been solved or circumvented. But, at the moment, either out of a lack of civic feelings or out of metaphysical fear, there is a dearth of organ donors. An attempt is being made to remedy this situation by using "xenografts."

This method consists in using animals to obtain tissues or organs, after genetic mutations, which could then be grafted onto human beings and accepted by their organisms. Pigs and monkeys are the animal species which give the most hope, but, so far, none of the attempts made has been successful.

The idea of "organoids" came into being in the early 80s. Although the application on man appears close at hand, it should be pointed out that all research has been carried out on



Genetically modified cells that replace the failing or missing ones

animals.

The idea is simple, so to speak. Cells are taken from the patient. These are altered genetically so that they produce the missing or faulty coding protein, which is the cause of the disease. These cells are then left to grow in a favourable medium until a sufficient amount has been obtained

to implant them back into the patient. It is thus an "autograft" of what is defined as being an "organoid" (mass of cells).

The initial research was carried out in the United States by Verma (Salk Institute) in 1985 and by Maciag in 1989 (Nat. Inst. Health). The techniques of the period used fibroblasts,

young skin cells which are easy to manipulate genetically and to grow. But the simple injection of these modified cells did not produce the hoped for results. They are unable to return to the place they come from alone and that is the only location where they can survive and be effective. Hence, their activity dwindle rapidly.

### Spectacular results

Moreover, there is a risk of proliferation and, in that case, how can they be removed? In order to get round this objection, Maciag used another procedure. He was fascinated by the phenomena of the

formation of vessels and he implanted a piece of connective tissue, soaked in fibroblast growth factor. In a few weeks, a perfectly irrigated "ball" of fibroblasts was formed. He then attempted to graft on some liver cells. The assemblage was well tolerated, but, very quickly, the organoid became fibrous and inactive. It was a failure.

The team at the Pasteur Institute (P. Moullet, O. Danos and J.M. Heard) tried another method consisting of synthetic fibres camouflaged in collagen plus fibroblast growth factor taken from the future receiver. It is an autograft and so there is no immune reaction. Moreover, the genetically modified cells remain active for several months. As soon as the cells are infected by the coding virus, they are immediately plunged in the collagen camouflaging the synthetic fibres. The fibroblasts spontaneously find their bearings, a mesh forms and then retracts, producing a small "ball" of a few millimetres. The implantation is carried out in a single step in a fatty membrane covering the intestine where the implant is easily vascularised.

Using this method, sever-

al tens of millions of modified cells are in place. They have no tendency to leave the organoid and the results obtained are spectacular. When the organoids are removed after a few months, they are still fully active.

Highly promising results have been obtained with dogs and research is continuing, particularly on replacing the fibroblasts by other kinds of cells such as myoblasts (young muscle cells) and applying this technique to man is being considered, especially for diseases linked to an enzyme deficiency. Organoids give hopes for many even more elegant therapeutic possibilities which would, above all, be more effective and less constraining for the patients.

However, hormone secreting organs pose quite a problem as the secretion is not a continuous process but is performed "on demand." Insulin, for instance, is only secreted according to the level of blood sugar. The use of oligonucleotides is being considered, to block the transcription of a given gene for a determined timespan.

It is almost science fiction, but not quite yet — L'Actualite En France.

## Researchers announce first large-scale test of prostate cancer drug

By Cassandra Burrell  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Researchers have announced the first large-scale test of a drug that holds promise for preventing prostate cancer — a condition affecting one-third of American men over 50.

About 18,000 men 55 and older will take part in a seven-year study to find out whether the drug — Finasteride — works, said the National Cancer Institute and Merck and Co. Inc., the maker of the drug. The tests will be carried out at

222 sites around the country.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Finasteride, also known by the trade name Proscar, in 1992 for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia, a non-cancerous enlargement of the prostate, a gland that secretes fluid discharged with sperm.

Because this condition and prostate cancer are influenced by similar hormonal factors, researchers believe the drug may also prevent cancer.

"We believe Finasteride

is a very promising agent that could prove to be of great value in heading off prostate cancer," said Dr. Charles A. Coltman, chairman of the Southwest Oncology Group, the organization that will coordinate the study.

"But the theory is still untested, and only a large-scale, controlled clinical trial of Finasteride can show whether the drug is truly effective for cancer prevention," Dr. Coltman said in a statement issued by the National Cancer Institute.

"In 1993, there will be about 165,000 new cases of

prostate cancer and about 35,000 deaths," said Dr. Samuel Broder, director of the Cancer Institute. "Prevention of cancer is our highest goal, and the need for effective prevention strategies is clear."

About 98 per cent of prostate cancers are diagnosed in men age 55 or older. The rate for American blacks is twice the rate for whites — a phenomenon the Cancer Institute said was of "particular concern."

"For reasons not currently understood, African-American men have the

highest prostate cancer mortality in the world," Dr. Broder said. One possible explanation is that blacks tend to be diagnosed with prostate cancer at later stages than whites are.

An estimated one-third of men over age 50 in the United States have early, undiagnosed prostate cancer, the Cancer Institute said.

"Most of these cancers are destined to remain

harmless, but some will progress to clinically significant disease," it said.

Half of the 18,000 men participating in the drug trials will take one 5-milligram tablet of Finasteride every day for seven years and half will take an inactive pill, or placebo, having no medicinal value.

The two groups will then be compared to determine whether their prostate can-

cer risks differ. Neither the participants nor the doctors conducting the study will know which men are getting which pill.

Finasteride controls benign prostatic hyperplasia by reducing levels of the hormone dihydrotestosterone in the prostate. Dihydrotestosterone promotes the growth of prostate cancer, doctors said.

Finasteride works only in the prostate, and its side-

effects are rare and mild, doctors said.

In tests performed by Merck, fewer than 5 per cent of men complained of impotence or decreased sexual desire.

"In addition, a recent study suggests that these problems frequently diminish over time in men who continue to take the drug," the institute's statement said.

## Cancer study shows benefit of some vitamin supplements

By Paul Reccer  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Daily doses of beta carotene, Vitamin E and selenium reduced cancer deaths by 13 per cent in a study conducted in rural China by U.S. researchers.

The five-year study, involving 29,584 people in an area where cancer rates are among the highest in the world, showed that some vitamins and minerals can be of benefit against cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) researchers.

"The study is the first randomised trial to show a significant reduction in can-

cer in a population supplemented with vitamins and minerals," Dr. William J. Blot said.

Dr. Blot added, however, that the results "don't automatically translate to the situation in the United States."

Dr. Blot and other NCI experts also said the single study does not present conclusive proof that vitamin and mineral supplements, such as in vitamin pills, are protective against cancer.

"At this point in time, NCI recommends that Americans eat a well-balanced diet, low in fat, high in fiber, with plenty of fruits and vegetables, as a way to maintain good health and to

reduce the risk of cancer," said Dr. Peter Greenwald, director of the division of cancer prevention and control at NCI. "We do not have recommendation now for vitamin and mineral supplements."

The population studied, in four communes in a farming area of northern China, gets less nutrition than most Americans, and has a much higher rate of cancer, Dr. Blot noted. As a result, he said, it is impossible to draw a scientifically accurate conclusion that the vitamins that lowered cancer incidence, and overall death rates in China would have a similar effect in the United States.

"We feel they do offer a hopeful sign," said Dr. Blot. "It strengthens our growing knowledge of the relationship between nutrition and cancer."

The study was conducted in an area of China called Linxian, about 300 miles south-southwest of Peking, the capital. The people in the area are mostly farmers with a diet dominated by corn, wheat and pickled vegetables.

Epidemiologists have long been interested in the area because of its extraordinarily high rate of cancer, particularly cancer of the esophagus.

Death rate from

esophageal cancer among people aged 40 to 69 in the U.S. is 5 to 19 per 100,000, in Linxian, the rate is 470 per 100,000 among people of the same age.

In cooperation with the Chinese government, NCI researchers arranged for a study group of almost 30,000 adults, aged 40 to 69. They were divided into groups that received different combinations of vitamin supplements or placebos. Dr. Blot said the vitamin and nutrient doses were up to two times the U.S. recommended daily allowance.

The vitamin groups were: — Retinol, a form of vitamin A, and zinc, which helps metabolise Retinol. — Riboflavin and Niacin, two B vitamins.

— Ascorbic acid, which is Vitamin C, and molybdenum, a nutrient.

— Beta carotene, a form of Vitamin A; alpha tocopherol, a form of Vitamin E, and selenium. These are all considered antioxidants which are thought to help prevent damage to DNA in cells.

Some people received all of the vitamin groups, while others received different combinations of the groups. In this way, the benefit of the specific vitamins could be analysed, Dr. Blot said.

## Test can detect mental retardation risk

CHICAGO (R) — A fast and effective blood test has been developed to detect carriers and victims of "fragile X syndrome," the most common form of inherited mental retardation.

The test employs a technique that rapidly amplifies specific regions of chromosomal DNA, making an analysis of a telltale portion of the X chromosome easier.

The test was described by researchers from the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities in Staten Island, in the latest issue of Journal of the American Medical Association.

"After DNA isolation and... amplification, the analysis can be completed in less than eight hours," the report said.

Fragile X syndrome causes mental retardation in one in 1,250 males and one in 2,000 females, the researchers estimated. It is the most common form of mental retardation in males af-

ter Down's syndrome.

Although males are mainly affected, women are able to carry the genetic defect and pass it on to some of their sons — who are affected — and some of their daughters — who are not — but who in turn become carriers.

Affected males in addition to being mentally retarded are, generally tall, physically strong, have a prominent nose and jaw, increased ear length, large testicles and are prone to epileptic seizures.

Women are not affected as strongly but about a third of female carriers show some degree of intellectual impairment, according to the Encyclopaedia of Medicine.

The test, which was described as faster and cheaper than current detection methods, could be used to counsel women on child bearing decisions, or to detect presence of the syndrome before or after birth.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CREATION  
By James and Phyllis Barlick

ACROSS  
1 Quirrel  
5 Neighbor of Socky  
10 Door of a land  
15 Reaps direction  
19 Organ  
20 "Form"  
21 perfect Union  
22 Acoustion  
23 Scorch  
24 Area measure  
25 Lowest point  
26 Heart chambers  
27 Amino  
28 Use, in a way  
29 Provisions  
30 Heaps and  
31 Substrate  
32 Travel  
33 Samuel  
34 Richardson novel

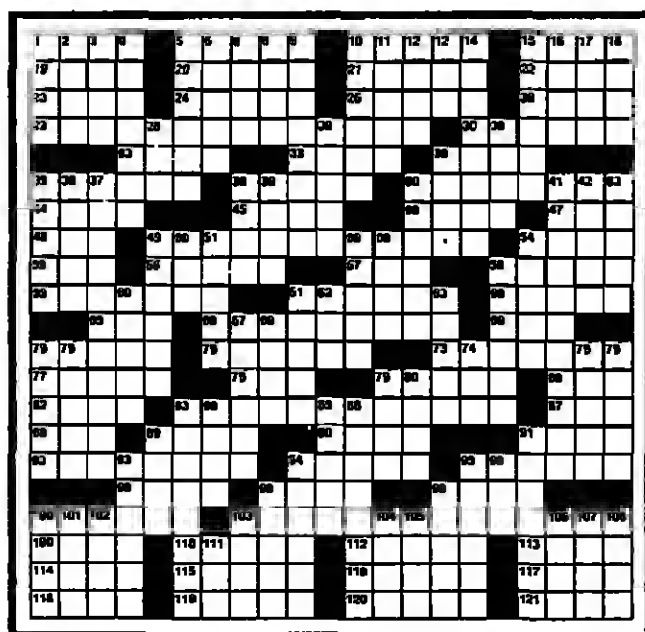
DOWN  
1 Sports group  
2 Ancient Peruvian  
3 Suburbs  
4 Swindles  
5 Sacred formula  
6 Used in prayer  
7 Musical  
8 Pans  
9 Balkans  
10 Break  
11 Winter Chekhov  
12 Gang's territory  
13 Denver  
14 Delightful  
15 Covers with  
16 Make  
17 Uninteresting  
18 Rave in England  
19 Soda

Diagramless 17: 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS  
1 Worthy creature  
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8 Gull  
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DOWN  
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6 Stretch out  
7 Adorn  
8 Trunkless tract  
9 Baby bed

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11 School on the Thames  
12 Suffer  
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Various odd words, like fade, with every year, while unknown ones find like ear.
2. Pickle pecker picked up toothpick to probe, because product caused his lips to peck.
3. To celebrate his birthday, Macbeth makes offer of free horse shoes for one day only.
4. Thimble cat chased by hungry lioness soon becomes dog-tired.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. RENDYKAW LIT BXTAD GTJB YNB BTTO  
GJJG BTK DTJ GBI HB YJ BXTEDB XADJ  
KJGYJBGGJ BNEW BXTBB H LABI  
BDKJJJ.

—By Earl Ireland

2. PLACID TDNES RQNTACK WCM QKCK  
PLILMGK TWESI EUE SEBECK ONBCRD  
NURBI QBRUGD PRAC.

—By Rita Salvato

3. BFC INBPC INCODE ANUDYN IBF XTNYZ  
HYD NUIK ANUDUPB DEXYI DTPPYX.  
FEDI

—By Deane H. McGary

4. WENUPN OLD WDWER BLE PAINTS LB  
AINTS YDRIE BYGG PWUG.

—By Ed Hoddlewood



100% satisfaction



## Courts overturn rejections

(Continued from page 1)

government was keen on holding free and fair elections in an atmosphere of absolute democracy.

He said: "We are a state of law... we apply the law to the letter and will not allow (anybody) to violate it or use it for the sake of one faction on the expense of another."

He said that the transfer of the teachers was done in accordance to the law that bars civil servants from campaigning for any of the candidates. He said that those teachers had violated the law.

Dr. Farhan had also complained during his press conference on Tuesday that the government did not allow his party to hold public rallies. To that the minister countered that candidates could campaign in cinemas, hotels, and festival halls but not in public places.

"We bar the use of public places if we had information and proof that the safety of participants could be jeopardized," he said.

So far, only the applications of two candidates, Nimer Sarhan and Saleh Masandeb, were rejected. Their contestations were rejected by the Amman First Instance Court because Mr. Sarhan, who applied for candidacy in the First District, has not been a Jordanian citizen for 10 consecutive years.

Mr. Masandeb, who intended to run in the Sixth District, failed to prove that he completed 30 years of age as stipulated by the Election Law. Shaher Rawashdeh, a candidate in Karak governorate, Wednesday, withdrew his nomination and the withdrawal was accepted by the governor of Karak, Petra said. No reason was given for the withdrawal.

## Russia may veto vote

(Continued from page 1)

sources.

The Russians argue that the sale of oil was removed from the proposal to accommodate objections from other European nations, which depend heavily on Libyan oil.

## Troubleshooter reports 'progress'

(Continued from page 1)

all we can make progress." Syria has said it would not oppose the PLO-Israeli agreement, but it has criticised PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for going behind the backs of his Arab partners in the peace process to secretly negotiate the accord.

The trip by Mr. Ross comes as the Syrians are threatening to stay away from the next round of peace talks unless Israel was willing to take serious steps towards progress in talks with them.

Syria is demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, while the Jewish state is insisting that Damascus spell out its vision of peace before committing itself to any withdrawal.

Mr. Ross, who is also preparing for a tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher next month, said in Tunis Tuesday that the time was not right for any U.S. shuttle diplomacy to try to bridge the gaps between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Ross went on to meet

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres before seeing a Palestinian delegation including peace negotiators Saeb Erakat and Hanan Ashrawi Wednesday evening.

The U.S. peace coordinator pays a courtesy call on President Ezer Weizman on Thursday morning.

He began his shuttle in Egypt on Monday and met Mr. Arafat in Tunis on Tuesday.

In Damascus, the official daily Al Thawra said Syria expected little from Mr. Ross's tour and accused Israel of putting obstacles in the way of the peace process.

"Nobody expects a lot from Ross's tour, which he began on Monday, and no one expects it to produce results that would reactivate the Middle East peace process and break the deadlock," it said.

In Riyadh, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said his country was seeking a "real peace" in the Middle East and not one that would quickly disintegrate.

## Ross: U.S. is studying means

(Continued from page 1)

accord and the Palestinian-Israeli talks underway in Taba underscored the important role Jordan will play in the economic development of the area.

"Steps are taken to change realities on the ground... (and that) will have an effect on Jordan and Jordan will (have an effect on them)," Mr. Ross said.

"Expectations and needs" of a Jordanian role are indicated in the PLO-Israeli declaration of principles, he said.

Saying that the U.S. will pursue all avenues to help achieve Middle East peace, Mr. Ross said he sees a commitment to the peace process by both Israel and Syria.

Asked if he favoured secret Syrian-Israeli talks to push the peace process forward, Mr. Ross said the U.S. supports whatever approach that will lead to progress.

But each approach may have to be tailored to suit the different tracks of the negotiations, he said.

Mr. Ross said the U.S. would pursue all avenues to

help achieve a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. envoy left Amman for Israel on the fourth leg of a Middle East shuttle that is also expected to take him to Syria, where he faces a Syrian threat to boycott the next round of Middle East peace talks unless Israel shows what Damascus calls signs of seriousness in the negotiations.

A possible trip to the region of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will depend on the recommendation Mr. Ross makes at the end of his current tour of the region.

No date has been set for the next round of talks, the first after the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda in September.

Mr. Ross is trying to achieve a breakthrough between Syria and Israel to clear the way for the next round of talks.

He arrived in Amman from Tunis where he met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Both said their talks on the implementation of the self-rule deal for the Palestinians were constructive.

## King warns peace agreement rejectionists

(Continued from page 1)

respect. As for the graduates, I express my sincere congratulations on their achievements during their years of loyal and distinguished service and on the occasion of their graduation from this advanced class. I will continue to take great pride in you, as I watch you advance in the fields of science, planning and training, while you work diligently — day and night — to keep our land safe, strong and well-protected, with God's help.

As for our land and family, both our sons and daughters, this land of Jordan is a land that withstands challenges and that derives its strength from justice and from the experience it has lived through since its inception in the most dangerous location in the Arab World. This land — with the awareness and abilities of its people, with God's help and blessings — that is capable of differentiating between right and wrong, that is courageous in difficult and decisive situations, that is forever true to its responsibilities towards future generations, this land of Jordan was the subject I spoke of to you a few days ago. I spoke to you in detail, focusing on what confronts us. I spoke with the sincerity of a Hashemite who is honoured by his lineage and the obligations and responsibilities thereof which always rise above the mundane, the trivial and the material, and to whom you have given your trust for over forty years, one who has lived with you and for you, who has given you his full and absolute trust, of which you have always been and always will be worthy, a trust which obligates us to attain success in becoming a model for all, through participation in democracy or shura, call it what you will, and in political pluralism which is still in its early stages, a pluralism based on convincing and useful programmes that give people the opportunity to choose certain elements and advocates in the near promising future. This pluralism is Jordanian in origin and character, based on all that is good and worthy. With time and experience, the various segments will come together in a number not exceeding five, to avoid congestion which hinders

movement. The members of these groups will achieve political maturity, shunning outdated political adolescence for a new and responsible mode that aims to unite and build rather than fragment and destroy, based on respecting and safeguarding the Constitution and the National Charter, upholding human rights without transcending the rights of others, and maintaining responsible freedom that respects the laws of the country and the rights of the citizens, ensuring — with God's help — that Jordan becomes a bright beacon for the region and the world.

I have spoken to you all on the eve of the commencement of the electoral campaign for the new Parliament. I mean every word that I said, and I see no need for reiteration, except to emphasise that we support Palestine, its people, and its leadership which the Palestinian people have accepted as their sole legitimate representative, in harmony with our fixed position that never undergoes seasonal changes. We committed ourselves to this position in the 1974 Rabat Summit, and to the aspirations of men, women, elderly people, and the children of Palestine, especially those who have clung firmly to their land and their rights on their national soil for twenty-six years, without surrendering to despair, violence or suffering. Consequently, I say that we oppose anyone who attempts to impede them, or to extinguish the light of hope in their souls and hearts regarding the latest Palestinian-Israeli meeting, the mutual recognition, and the agreement on the formula for the declaration of principles, on the way to achieving peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have never been and will never be — with God's help — pessimists who alter their positions overnight from one extreme to the other.

As for Jerusalem, the sacred city, we have made our position on it clear, and we have clarified our Islamic Arab Hashemite responsibilities towards it, and we have called for the formation of a distinguished non-political Islamic body that we would be honoured to cooperate with, a body that would rise above

politics, and the ambitions and greed of any individual or party, a body that would seek only God's blessing, and one that represents all Islamic sects, which today stand at seven, similar to the heptagonal star of the Arab Revolt flag that also characterises the Jordanian flag, seeking to unite the ranks of the Islamic Umma to be the best among nations, as God meant it to be. At the same time, we call upon the Christian world to unify its ranks, seeking to achieve a religious dialogue among the followers of the three monotheistic religions that would lead to a unanimous recognition among them that sovereignty over Jerusalem's holy places belongs solely to Almighty God. This would make the Holy City a site of prayer for all worshippers and a meeting place for the worship of God, in compliance with Almighty God's will, as God has wished Jerusalem with its holy places to be dear to the hearts of all the children of Abraham (peace be upon him). This is a fact that no Muslim who has read the Holy Quran revealed to his faithful Arab Prophet can deny, because it is so clearly expressed.

This is in addition to the fact that we accept for the Palestinians what they accept for themselves, and that we support them wholeheartedly in all that strengthens them and strengthens us in our upcoming march, and we insist on our right to call upon all of them to meet and cooperate in compliance with God's order:

And obey Allah and His Messenger, and dispute not with one another, lest ye falter and your strength depart from you; but be steadfast! Lo! Allah is with the steadfast.

As for us here in Jordan, we should state that we fear no one, if we unify our ranks, and if this united people and large family should choose to elect those who represent them in their awareness, honesty, courage and sense of responsibility. I am confident — after relying on God — that each and every voter among you will neither let down himself/herself nor me, when you go within days to exercise your duties in a responsible manner. With God's help, this will pave the way for a future stable era, and a balance which we cherish and uphold among

the three branches of government, as well as a continuation of progress and development and unity among us all. For it looks as though there are amongst us — may God guide us all — some who still seem to be engulfed by traditional negative attitudes, which, if allowed to continue — God forbidding — would force us all to reconsider the whole situation — each from his own position — regarding our responsibilities which we should shoulder together. Let us shun from our ranks those who do not wish us well, those who would only find satisfaction in destruction in this country, which, God willing, will always remain strong and immune in the face of evil forces, whether these forces are acting deliberately or not. This may be the result of the fact that we were the last to know what went on between our brothers and others.

Ever since this Kingdom was established, we have passed through one catastrophe after the other, pointing out the dangers, but nobody listened. Once that which we warned of took place, we were the first to bear the consequences, and we were always the first to rectify the negative impact of each and every event. We were always deprived of any kind of understanding of our concerns and interests — interests which were never anything but the interests of the nation — and a lack of understanding of the reality of our national concern regarding our nation's interest, which we have always sought to serve, at the expense of this steadfast people. This led to some of us here, those ingrates who deny our achievements, including the Constitution that we have given the people, freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and all that distinguishes this land from others, to ask us — with stupidity and constant misunderstanding of our noble motives in the service of our nation — to be the last to act when it comes to executing our duties towards our people, its future and fate. If all the Arabs were to sign declarations of principles or working agendas with Israel towards the achievements of peace before we do, they would have hailed and commended them. But when we sign and prepare ourselves to start working on matters of

concern to us, it is a different matter. Everybody had become involved in peace-making to begin with — a process to which there is no alternative — and we only did so after our insistence that progress is first made on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and our signing came in support of that progress.

To all of this, I have to say finally that we are for a just and comprehensive peace. Whether we proceed or not, or whether we refrain from taking steps in this process to which everyone is committed in the first place, it is a purely Jordanian national matter, a Jordanian national decision. It is time for everybody, Arabs as well as non-Arabs, to realise that we only act on our convictions that emanate from our concern for the interest of our country and nation equally.

As for the Arab army, it has a major role here in protecting the homeland and its achievements, as well as a world role within international peace-keeping forces, and in the region, for the reinforcement of stability and security. At a time when the world around us is being reshaped after years of fragmentation, and at a time when the United Nations, which is preparing for its fiftieth anniversary, is on the threshold of being reorganised in order to reflect the realities of the day — which differ from those realities prevalent when it was founded — to formulate principles and to define human interaction in this universe by applying the same stands and measures to solve existing problems. It is then that all, ourselves included, will shoulder their responsibilities, partners on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation for the good of humanity, and a collective responsibility in a promising new world.

In conclusion, it is the qualified, able, honest, good, aware, courageous and loyal person who is the pillar of the country, with God's help and blessings.

May God protect you all, and may He protect the noble, honest march, and unify our ranks in his service, on the path towards well-being and prosperity and to Him all success is referred.

Peace be with you, and God's Mercy and His Blessings.

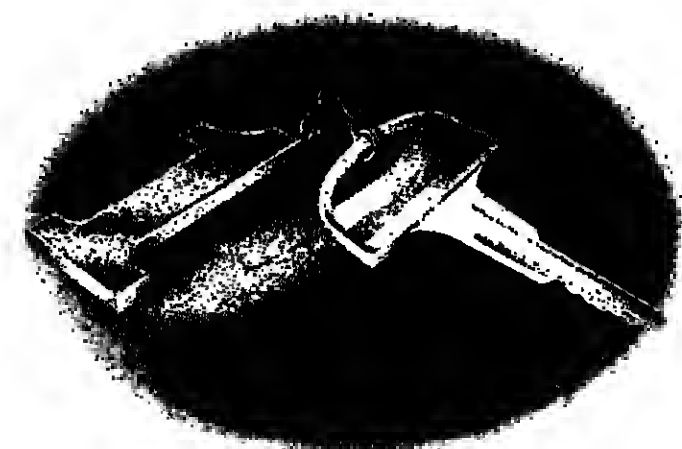
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## IMF defends assistance to troubled countries

MANILA (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Wednesday defended its record in helping countries cope with economic problems and dismissed criticisms that its prescriptions were sometimes harmful.

Howard Handy, the new IMF representative in Manila, called a news conference to answer accusations by Malcolm Forbes, president and editor-in-chief of Forbes business magazine, who earlier urged Manila to beware of IMF prescriptions.

Mr. Forbes told reporters Tuesday some IMF experts were like doctors who still practised medicine as it was 200 years ago.

"I think this sort of unfounded comment should not go unanswered. We want to go on record that some of these allegations are not true," Mr. Handy said.

He said recent studies of IMF-supported programmes worldwide showed countries that had consistently implemented reforms had improved their growth rates, lowered inflation, and built up their international reserves.

Mr. Forbes had said the Philippines should learn from Mexico and Argentina, which rebuilt their economies after shunning IMF advice to devalue their currencies.

"The assertion that Mexico and Argentina rebuilt their economies after shunning IMF advice is the exact opposite of the truth," Mr. Handy said in a statement.

He said Mexico's success since the dark days of the economy in 1982 was a result of a long and arduous effort in which the IMF had an important role.

## Europe's fashion industry seeks boost from Gulf Arabs

DUBAI (R) — European clothes makers, struggling through recession at home, put their goods on display in Dubai Wednesday, hoping that buoyant Gulf Arab markets can help boost their flagging sales.

More than 500 firms are represented at the exhibition this week, looking for orders estimated last year to be worth \$300 million.

The companies, mainly from Italy, Spain, Germany and France, are displaying their summer 1994 ranges. Children's clothes and shoes — especially sandals — are their

strongest sellers in the Gulf, they said.

"People have big families, and they like to spend money on their children," said Mariateresa Malakos, representing 128 Italian companies at the show.

She said women's and men's clothes were more difficult to sell, as local Gulf Arabs and many of the expatriate workforce — predominantly Indians and Pakistanis — prefer their own traditional clothes.

Exhibition organiser Ravi Jreissati said few of the European companies were making clothes especially designed for

the Gulf market. But their exhibits did take account of the steamy Gulf climate, he added.

"We have some Finnish exhibitors — I don't think they will be bringing their fur coats," he pointed out.

There is no catwalk at the show — exhibitors instead will display their wares from stalls in a cavernous exhibition hall. Mr. Jreissati said the show was aimed at medium-sized firms without their own publicity machines.

Firms from the United States, Africa and the Far East are also taking part.

## Russian central bank glum on IMF cash prospects

MOSCOW (R) — Russian inflation could be as much as 1,300 per cent this year, well below last year's rate but too high to free additional funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the head of the central bank said Tuesday.

"By nature I am an optimist but not when it comes to the IMF," Viktor Geraschenko told Reuters at a banking conference.

"Recently when I was in Washington it was made clear that, with the present rate of inflation, the second tranche (of a big IMF loan) will not come this year. I do not think that a miracle will take place and this money will come as a present from God," he said.

Russian has already received IMF loans of \$2.5 billion, including \$1.5 billion from a special fund designed to help speed the transition from communism to capitalism. Extra cash depends on the country meeting monetary and economic targets.

Consumer prices rose 2,500 per cent from December 1991 to December 1992 after the removal of most price controls in an attempt to build a market economic system modelled on

the West. Monthly inflation rates have been around 20 per cent for most of this year, peaking at 26 per cent in August. Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov has said he expects monthly inflation to slow to 10 per cent by early next year.

Mr. Geraschenko said a high budget deficit and economic disintegration in the countries of the former Soviet Union were the main problems facing Russia.

"Inflation in 1993 will be in the range of 1,000 to 1,300 per cent," he said.

"I am afraid we will be incapable of achieving the promised result that monthly inflation will go below 10 per cent by the end of the year. This is an impossible mission," he said.

Earlier this year Mr. Fyodorov accused the central bank of sabotaging economic reforms by printing too much money, keeping interest rates too low and refusing to release facts and figures about its operations.

But Mr. Geraschenko indicated that he had no intention of leaving the central bank.

"Legally nowadays, I am in a situation that nobody could remove me against my will but in my country everything is possible," he said.

Under Russia's constitution, the central bank reports to parliament, but president Boris Yeltsin dissolved parliament and placed the central bank under government control.

Mr. Geraschenko said the bank would respect the terms of a May agreement under which the government promised to keep spending down and the central bank agreed to raise interest rates.

The discount rate has more than doubled since then and now stands at 210 per cent.

But Mr. Geraschenko, in comments certain to alarm Western advisers who urge Russia to keep monetary policy tight to rein in inflation, said Russia could not sustain high interest rates.

"I am not in favour of a very tough monetary policy," Mr. Geraschenko said. "Russian inflation is cost driven. Our economy could not sustain high interest rates because this would add to cost inflation."

## Taiwan to use convicts to ease labour shortage

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan will use convicts to work on public construction projects because of the island's labour shortage, Justice Minister Ma Ying-jeou said Wednesday.

"We plan to choose prisoners who are strong and give them training in construction when the number of inmates at open prisons exceeds 3,200 ... to help solve the labour shortage problem," Mr. Ma told parliament.

Open prisons, which do not have walls, house inmates who are serving time for minor offences and those who are transferred from conventional prisons for good behaviour.

A justice ministry spokesman said details of the plan were still being drafted and it was not known whether the inmates would be allowed to refuse work or if they would be paid.

Currently Taiwan has three open prisons, housing a total of 741 inmates. Parliament is reviewing legislation which would allow more inmates to be transferred to such institutions.

Taiwan, struggling with a severe labour shortage, lifted a ban on foreign workers in 1991. The private and state sectors received approval to hire tens of thousands of foreign workers, mostly from South East Asian countries.

## Turkish privatisation revenue flows slowly

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is in a rush to sell state enterprises for badly needed cash, but officials said she would have to wait until the second half of 1994 to harvest substantial revenues.

She faces opposition from Social Democrats in her coalition government and criticism from economists who want her to shrink public deficits and curb inflation running at 68 per cent a year.

Privatisation officials said Ms. Ciller had asked them to speed up work on selling big state firms such as oil refinery Tupras, auto-maker Tofas, iron and steel maker Erdemir, petroleum distributor Petrol Ofisi, Nezas Telecommunications, Sumerbank's banking and textiles units and petrochemicals firm Petkim.

The privatisation office KOI is drawing up plans to sell electricity utility Tek and telephone monopoly Turk Telekom.

Ms. Ciller, a U.S.-trained economist, has said selling at least part of the \$18-billion telecommunications company is vital to her drive to put the economy on its feet.

Officials said Turkey could

earn more than \$7 billion from partial sales of these companies, equivalent to nearly half its annual exports, but the cash would not flow in immediately.

"The bulk of the money will begin to come after 10 months," a KOI official told Reuters. "The firms we are trying to sell are juicy for buyers but very complex for us to put on sale."

Economists and businessmen are urging the government to enact an economic stabilisation package with privatisation as its centrepiece, but Ms. Ciller seems wary of taking austerity measures before nationwide municipal elections due in March.

"Turkey must urgently implement a medium-term stability programme and privatisation must be the key part of this," Halis Komili, chairman of the Turkish businessmen and industrialists' association Tusiad, told a seminar in Istanbul last week.

Tusiad and Turkey's union of chambers and bourses, two influential lobbying groups have launched a campaign to mobilise support for privatisation among a wavering public.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Orionids Meteor Showers occur in a well aspected framework of five Moon aspects that last until early evening when the Moon squares Jupiter, reducing our financial judgement and providing us with a tendency towards extravagance.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Confusion about one connected with home or career can bring an odd days start but you soon find you can uncover real facts and handle intelligence.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You don't see how a new idea can work in daily routines early but a friend of good judgment can later show you exactly how best to have this occur.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Think about how you can gain more of this world's good and then get a man of influence and experience to give you a boost in this direction.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A prominent person from afar is the best one to aid you to gain the personal extension of your activities that you now so desire.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Private arrangements with members of your family for getting your basic structure at home on better foundation will be easy if you consult an expert in this field.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Think about friends and acquaintances of well rounded

experience who are able to introduce you to someone in the outside world who can be helpful to your most comprehensive personal goal.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can get suggestions from those in power of knowledge as to the best means by which to add to your efficiency and operative skill in doing your job.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You now are able to see how to go after your most desirable ends and to see and be with charms and to have a good time while doing so.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Consider how to handle whatever your obligations in such a way that it pleases the most influential and important members of your family.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) An emotional associate needs to be approached with tact where joint agreements are concerned and an outsider of best judgment can be very helpful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) There are a number of activities that require you study and consider them from the angle of just how much they will cost before you commit yourself.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your judgment is very good and you have the advice and help also of an influential friend is gaining the specific things that mean the most to you.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 22, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This last day of Libra finds your evening to be the best time to put across your ideas or products as you acquire a well rounded understanding of exactly what it is that the general public wants.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Now your home should certainly be the centre of your activities so even though you are obligated to spend part of the day outside, think of basic interests.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Your own personal aims now have a good chance to come to fruition and especially where seeing the persons of whom you like recreational outlets are concerned.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are today interested in doing whatever will bring you more articles of value or beauty into your life as well as improve appearance of property.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You excite so much charm and magnetism now that you can get almost anything you want by approaching potential benefactors with a smile.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Put aside that extraneous quality that is so a part of your character and withdraw within yourself, considering what you can do to have more of life's goodies.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Whatever loyal friends are available are the once now who will give you a very helpful

hand in gaining some highly desirable desire that you have.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) The world is your oyster today if you get doped up in your best bib and tucker and venture forth into the world, letting your ambitions be known.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make as many now and exciting contacts with fascinating persons as you can and get them to release to you some knowledge that can smooth your pathway.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You are not apt to be as emotional as your attachment would like you to be but today is one of those times when you can, would benefit from a romantic attitude.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) An overly sensitive associate is the best one to help you to get a better awareness of how to bring a benefit that is important into your life.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Whatever your activities are today be sure you do not hasten through them but organise a sensible schedule by which to perform and to do them.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You want to have a good time but you also want it to have some special meaning in your life so choose the recreation you decide upon to extract the greatest results.

## India to maintain bold reforms

NEW DELHI (R) — The Congress Party of Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao pledged Tuesday to continue its programme of bold economic reforms, saying isolation would hurt the country.

"In this reforms programme, we have to take full advantage of whatever the world has to offer. Isolation is injurious to the health of the nation's economy," Congress said in a manifesto for November elections to be held in five states and Delhi.

The manifesto blamed the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for political and economic setbacks in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Rao told a news conference that religious strife would not divert his government from promises

to develop the country. "The single-minded attention to development should never get blurred," he said.

He said the government might not be able to revive economic development if it were slowed down by issues such as the Hindu-Muslim dispute over the Ayodhya mosque.

India launched radical reforms to the state-dominated economy in July 1991, paving the way for foreign investment and encouraging private industry.

Listing its achievements, the party said in its manifesto that India had enjoyed a steady return to communal peace and economic revival.

The government has projected 5.0 per cent growth in gross domestic product for the 1993/94 financial year, ending

March 31. It says the economy grew by 4.0 per cent last year, the second year of the liberalisation programme.

Over 90 per cent of foreign investment was entering infrastructural areas such as power, oil, telecommunications and steel, the Congress manifesto said.

It said inflation had been curbed and foreign exchange reserves, needed to import essential commodities, had increased nearly tenfold to a safe level.

India said early this month its trade deficit had declined sharply in the first five months of the 1993/94 financial year, to about \$264.6 million, compared to just over \$2.3 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Exports rose more than 24 per cent in dollar terms.

## Report: EC car components industry facing shakeup

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC) car components industry is likely to be radically restructured with massive job losses as it strives to close the competitive gap with Japan, a report prepared for the executive European Commission said.

The industry could lose more than 400,000 jobs up to 1999 and sharply cut the number of direct suppliers to car manufacturers, said the report by the Boston Consulting Group.

A commission spokesman said the job loss figure may be exaggerated since it did not take into account possible new products in areas such as environmental protection and

electronics or the anticipated upsurge in car demand by the end of the decade.

"It's true nevertheless there has to be a major restructuring in the car components industry, as with the car manufacturers," he said. "Life will change."

He said the commission will draw from the document to prepare a report on the competitiveness of the European car industry in the light of the EC's plans to give Japanese car manufacturers free access to its market in the year 2000.

The consultants' report said productivity in the EC components industry was only one-third that of Japan's and that it would have to increase to 50

per cent for the industry to remain viable after 1999.

It said that would represent at least a 40 per cent decline in jobs. The commission spokesman said other studies have suggested the gap with Japan is not that wide and that the report did not take into account the value of the yen.

He said industry was being asked to comment.

The report said demand for parts would become more concentrated as carmakers merged or share component production. The components industry was likely to move to a "tiered" supply structure similar to Japan's, slashing the number of direct suppliers to around 500.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Can't you take a hint? I'm fishing for compliments!"

### JUMBLE

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VACHO  
NUMIS  
BLATUR  
TISMEY



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

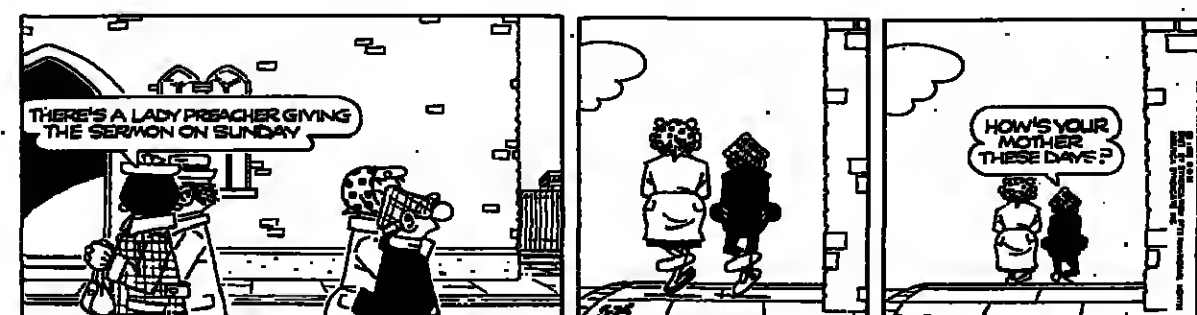
Print answer here: "OO-OOO" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TACKY HONEY ACHING PURPLE  
Answer: This could save a high-up from a painful comedown — A PARACHUTE

### Peanuts



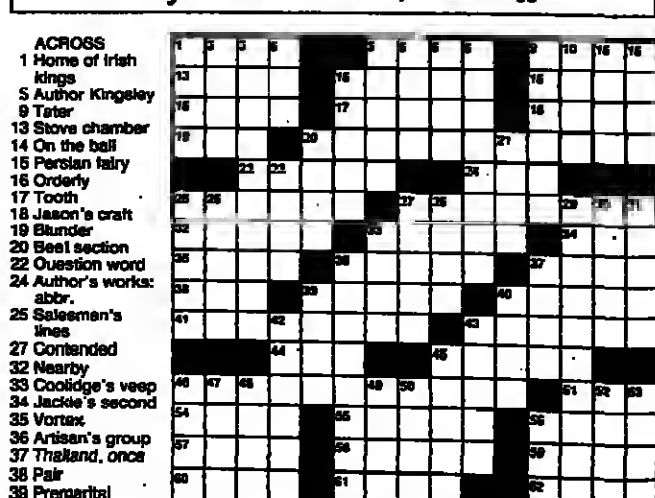
### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins



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- Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:**
- |                          |                               |                       |             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Home of Irish kings   | 7. Mesopotamia, once          | 42. Backpackers, e.g. | 48. Quahog  |
| 5. Author Kingley        | 8. Played strings idly        | 43. Some Africans     | 49. Appoint |
| 9. Tater                 | 9. Meager                     | 44. Haggard           | 50. Manager |
| 13. Stove chamber        | 10. Saucy                     | 45. Haggard           | 51. Methods |
| 14. On the ball          | 11. Impulse                   | 46. Haggard           | 52. Methods |
| 15. Persian fairy        | 12. Fashion name              | 47. Haggard           | 53. Methods |
| 16. Ordinary             | 13. Improper                  | 48. Haggard           | 54. Methods |
| 17. Tooth                | 14. Pious                     | 49. Haggard           | 55. Methods |
| 18. Jason's craft        | 15. Grapes                    | 50. Haggard           | 56. Methods |
| 19. Blunder              | 16. Actress Lamarr            | 51. Haggard           | 57. Methods |
| 20. Beel section         | 17. Last-toe                  | 52. Haggard           | 58. Methods |
| 22. Question word        | 18. Italian city              | 53. Haggard           | 59. Methods |
| 24. Author's work: abbr. | 19. Queer's                   | 54. Haggard           | 60. Methods |
| 25. Salesman's lines     | 20. Hoctor's                  | 55. Haggard           | 61. Methods |
| 27. Contended            | 21. Fighter plane crew member | 56. Haggard           | 62. Methods |
| 32. Nearby               | 22. Outrigger                 | 57. Haggard           | 63. Methods |
| 33. Coolidge's weep      | 23. Conds                     | 58. Haggard           | 64. Methods |
| 34. Jackie's second      | 24. Demands                   | 59. Haggard           | 65. Methods |
| 35. Voracious            | 25. Payment                   | 60. Haggard           | 66. Methods |
| 36. Artisan's group      | 26. Rags and                  | 61. Haggard           | 67. Methods |
| 37. Thrilled, once       | 27. Ride the waves            | 62. Haggard           | 68. Methods |
| 38. Pair                 | 28. Splotchy                  | 63. Haggard           | 69. Methods |
| 39. Preterite            | 29. Island                    | 64. Haggard           | 70. Methods |
| 40. Thrub                | 30. Young salmon              | 65. Haggard           | 71. Methods |
| 41. Cutting frame        |                               | 66. Haggard           | 72. Methods |
| 43. Canal craft          |                               | 67. Haggard           | 73. Methods |
| 45. Ionian island        |                               | 68. Haggard           | 74. Methods |
| 46. Parliamentary        |                               | 69. Haggard           | 75. Methods |
| 51. Engrave              |                               | 70. Haggard           | 76. Methods |
| 52. Wheel shaft          |                               | 71. Haggard           | 77. Methods |
| 53. Less common          |                               | 72. Haggard           | 78. Methods |
| 56. Begudge              |                               | 73. Haggard           | 79. Methods |
| 57. Deciever             |                               | 74. Haggard           | 80. Methods |
| 58. Sues off             |                               | 75. Haggard           | 81. Methods |
| 59. Duke or earl         |                               | 76. Haggard           | 82. Methods |
| 60. Doctrines            |                               | 77. Haggard           | 83. Methods |
| 61. US labor leader      |                               | 78. Haggard           | 84. Methods |
| 62. English composer     |                               | 79. Haggard           | 85. Methods |
| DOWN                     |                               | 80. Haggard           | 86. Methods |
| 1. Sound quality         |                               | 81. Haggard           | 87. Methods |
| 2. Declare               |                               | 82. Haggard           | 88. Methods |
| 3. Hitchcock thriller    |                               | 83. Haggard           | 89. Methods |
| 4. Treasure              |                               | 84. Haggard           | 90. Methods |
| 5. Isolated              |                               | 85. Haggard           | 91. Methods |
| 6. Combine               |                               | 86. Haggard           | 92. Methods |



[illegible]



## Indian army says storming of Kashmir mosque not ruled out

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Indian troops encircling the Hazratbal Mosque have not ruled out storming the complex to flush out Muslim militants holed up inside, the general commanding the siege said here Wednesday.

Lieutenant-General S. Padmanabhan told reporters he was "optimistic" the 50 armed Kashmiri Muslim separatists would surrender by Friday at the latest.

"We are also not ruling out the possibility of storming Hazratbal... but we pray that should not happen," said Gen. Padmanabhan, commander of 60,000 soldiers in Kashmir. Some 10,000 of his troops have surrounded the mosque.

The general said he had not set a deadline for the militants to give up, but he would accept

nothing less than a surrender. "There are no ifs and buts," he warned.

Infantrymen backed by light artillery, elite "Black Cat" commandos and members of the shadowy Special Frontiers Force have ringed the lakeside Hazratbal Mosque, the holiest Islamic shrine in Kashmir.

About 70 civilians, including women and children, are also believed to be trapped inside the complex for the past five days.

Troops have cut off power and water to Hazratbal in an operation reminiscent of a 10-day siege of the Golden Temple in Punjab in May 1988 to flush out Sikh militants from the holiest shrine in Sikhdom. "They will have to surrender... the sooner the better,"

Gen. Padmanabhan said, adding that he was hopeful of ending the siege before Friday's weekly prayers.

The general also said he suspected top Kashmiri militant leaders may be holed up inside the mosque, which has been ringed with barbed wire. Late Tuesday the militants allowed two women inside the mosque, but rejected their appeals to free women and children, some of whom are sick, he asserted.

The militants have been frequently accused of using mosques as sanctuaries and the action on the Hazratbal Shrine, where a holy relic of Prophet Mohammad is on display, is the second since 1991. Muslim separatists are

spearheading a campaign for Kashmir's separation from India. Some 7,000 people have died since the drive turned violent in 1989.

Meanwhile dozens of Kashmiri Muslims were injured here Wednesday as Indian troops fired warning shots and used tear gas and clubs to prevent thousands of protesters from marching on Hazratbal Mosque.

Kashmir administration spokesman Mehboob Ur Rehman also indicated that the siege could be brought to an early conclusion. "I think this drama will end on a happy note soon and people will not have to wait until Friday," he said. Mr. Rehman said government negotiators held two rounds of talks with the masked, gun-toting guerrillas inside the shrine Wednesday but he declined to reveal any details of the discussions.

A protest strike paralysed the Muslim-majority valley Wednesday and anti-Indian demonstrations rocked Srinagar and other Kashmir towns, witnesses and officials said. Border Security Force (BSF) troops rushed from the neighbourhood of Srinagar to another through the day to break up scattered protests against the siege and attempts to march on the shrine 10 kilometres (six miles) from the city centre.

Several dozen demonstrators were injured as the club-wielding BSF troops sought to enforce a curfew, the witnesses said.



Border Security Force personnel beat protesters during a demonstration in Srinagar, the capital of the Indian state of Kashmir (AFP photo)

## NATO chief blasts allies on Yugoslav row

TRAVEMUENDE, Germany (Agencies) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner bluntly told allies Wednesday the alliance would be damaged if they did not stop blaming each other for failing to stop the war in former Yugoslavia, diplomats said.

They said Mr. Woerner issued the warning during a meeting of NATO defence ministers in this German coastal resort.

"Woerner said the finger-pointing should stop, otherwise NATO would be in serious trouble," said one diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

The United States has attacked its European allies over policy in Bosnia because Washington cannot get them to agree to lift an arms embargo and allow the Muslims to defend themselves better.

European allies have criticised the United States for failing to send peacekeeping troops to Bosnia as part of United Nations forces.

Meanwhile, thousands of Croats fled hostile territory Wednesday, and hundreds more were to be set free under a prisoner exchange with the Muslim-led government. But a similar Serb-Muslim tradeoff was postponed.

More than 700 Muslims and 300 Croats were released and transported to safe territory Tuesday, at the start of a long-delayed prisoner exchange organised by the Red Cross.

About 6,000 prisoners of war are expected to be released under an "all-for-all" exchange agreed upon last month by separatist Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-led government.

A similar deal between the government and rebel Bosnian Serbs was to begin Wednesday — but a Red Cross spokesman said it had been postponed at least until the weekend because of logistical problems.

"We hope it's only postponed and not cancelled," said spokesman Pierre Gauthier in Geneva.

He said logistics accounted for the delay. But other Red Cross officials blamed new conditions set by both sides. The Serb-Muslim agreement covered an estimated 600 prisoners for each side.

More Muslim-Croat exchanges were planned for Wednesday to the hotly contested city of Mostar. About 100 Croats were to be freed from a Muslim military prison, and 40 Muslims needing medical attention were to be evacuated from a Croat hospital.



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## Russian nuclear dump ship may stay in bay

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian tanker being loaded with nuclear waste may stay in a Far East bay rather than head for the open sea because of international protests about an earlier dumping mission, the Ecology Ministry said Wednesday.

A ministry spokesman told Reuters that workers had begun loading the tanker with 800 cubic metres (28,000 cubic feet) of liquid nuclear waste, but no date had been set for the dumping. The previous operation Saturday sparked international protests, although Moscow has insisted the waste is not dangerous.

"There is the possibility that it (the tanker) will stay in the bay because of complaints from Japan, South Korea and New Zealand," the spokesman said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata telephoned Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Tuesday to complain about the radioactive waste, which comes from coolants and cleaning fluids from nuclear submarines refitted at the Bolshoi Kamenny Base near Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan.

"It started loading today," the Ecology Ministry spokesman said.

Russia has said it has to dump waste at sea because it does not have the capacity on land and the amount is growing as submarines and other navy vessels are decommissioned.

Japan warned Russia Wednesday to cancel plans to dump a second load of nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan or risk a possible souring of recently improved bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and I are both concerned about this problem of dumping radioactive waste into the sea because it has become a Japanese problem," Mr. Hata told Mr. Kozyrev, according to a ministry statement.

Mr. Hata, who is also deputy premier, held out the possibility of a new rift to Russo-Japanese relations just one week after a fence-mending visit to Tokyo by President Yeltsin.

"I ask that you relay Japan's position to President Yeltsin and have the people in charge (of the dumping) call off their operations," Mr. Hata was quoted as telling Mr. Kozyrev. "This is in order to preserve the new base in Japan-Russian relations that was created as a result of President Yeltsin's visit to Japan," he said.

Mr. Kozyrev promised to take up the issue with Mr. Yeltsin and urged Japan to help Russia find a means of dealing with its nuclear waste.

Russia faced a storm of protest in South Korea Wednesday from political, environmental and religious groups over its dumping of nuclear waste into the sea of Japan.



Japanese Empress Michiko stands with Emperor Akihito in this palace photograph taken on Oct. 1 on her 59th birthday (AFP photo)

## Japan empress collapses

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Empress Michiko collapsed Wednesday, her 59th birthday, and had trouble speaking after regaining consciousness, prompting fears for her long-term health.

One physician said the symptoms could denote a mild stroke.

A palace health bulletin issued in late afternoon said the empress, perhaps Japan's most popular royal, fainted or partially lost consciousness earlier in the day but added: "Her condition is not serious."

After examining Empress Michiko, her chief physician said he had found no signs of paralysis in her limbs but noted she had so far seen unable to speak.

"She has fully regained consciousness and is recovering... but she has trouble speaking despite making efforts at speech," he told reporters.

The head of a clinic in central Tokyo said such symptoms were regularly associated with a mild stroke.

"It matches the symptoms of a mild stroke," he said, asking not to be identified. "Anyone suffering from these symptoms would be taken to hospital."

A spokesman at the Imperial Household Agency's own hospital denied Empress Michiko was receiving medical treatment there.

"The empress has not been here and we've not received any notification that she may require hospital care," he said.

A palace official handling general affairs said Empress Michiko would not attend a banquet Wednesday night to be held by visiting Portuguese President Mario Soares.

"It's an important event, a return banquet for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko after the palace had given one for the president," said the official in a telephone interview.

"We don't know how serious her condition is, but the fact that she will not be attending this evening's event is not a positive sign."

He added that Princess Nori.

who had also been scheduled to go to the banquet, would remain at the Akasaka Palace to be at her mother's side.

"The next indication of her condition will come tomorrow, when the palace will announce whether the empress will meet the Portuguese president and his wife when they make a farewell call on the imperial couple," the official said.

The empress collapsed at 10:25 a.m., about half an hour before the start of official ceremonies commemorating her birthday, the palace announced.

"She had a brisk stroll in the palace garden with the emperor and the princess after breakfast... and later collapsed in the palace lounge while she was talking with the emperor and the princess," it said.

Empress Michiko, commander daughter of a rich flour miller, has been under strain over press criticism of her supposed high-handed management of the imperial household.

In a birthday interview published in newspapers Wednesday, the empress — whose husband became emperor in January 1989 on the death of his father Emperor Hirohito — reflected on the media criticism of herself.

"I have to lend an ear to any criticism to reflect upon myself... but I feel a deep sorrow and bewilderment towards reports which are not true," she said.

Chief government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura broke the news that Empress Michiko had fallen ill after visiting the palace, where he had intended to pay his respects to the empress on her birthday.

He said the palace grand chamberlain, Shoichi Fujimori, informed him Empress Michiko had collapsed due to fatigue and anaemia.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa also went to the palace and then told Japanese reporters: "I've heard she's now up and about. What a relief."

## Dublin-based designer wins top-fashion award

LONDON (R) — Dublin-based fashion designer John Rocha was named British Designer of the Year at a glittering ceremony of London's Natural History Museum. The award was the climax of London fashion week, a showcase for British designer talent but shrank this year to little more than a weekend tacked on to the end of Paris's lengthy fashion fiesta. Supermodel Naomi Campbell, towering above Rocha in platformed shoes, purple tights and a hot pink feather boa, presented the British fashion industry's most coveted prize after a catwalk show in a marquee in the grounds of the museum.

"There's going to be a party in Dublin tonight," the Hong Kong-born designer said as he accepted the award before London's fashion glitterati. "This is one of the happiest moments of my life." With its flowing fabrics and Celtic-inspired designs that suit ordinary women as well as supermodels, Rocha was hotly tipped to take the top prize over previous winners Vivienne Westwood and Rifat Ozbek. Born to a Chinese mother and a Portuguese father, Rocha moved to Ireland in 1978. Now 40 years old, he went bankrupt twice during the 1980s before re-establishing himself in 1987.

## Archaeologists call potato field sword find sensational

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Two children harvesting potatoes led archaeologists to eight 3,600-year-old bronze age swords, a find hailed as "unique in Northern Europe." "It's a rare discovery because there are so many and they are so well-preserved," said Niels Axel Boas, head of the team examining the swords found near Grenaa on the Jutland peninsula. Many areas of the metal are uncorroded, and seven have carvings. The swords, wrapped in skin, were buried 10 centimetres (4 inches) below ground. They are 45 centimetres (18 inches) long, Lise Hougaard, 14, and her brother Torben, 11, found a sword handle and a blade while harvesting pulling potatoes last week. Archaeologists started digging late Monday and found seven more swords. They believe the weapons were cast in Denmark, where the bronze age lasted from 1700 B.C. to 500 B.C. Boas said the children would get a reward for immediately reporting the discovery to the Grenaa Museum. "I think we would like to buy a computer with the money," Line Hougaard said in a television interview.

## Harley-Davidson Cafe opens for business

NEW YORK (R) — Motorcycle fanatics roared into midtown Manhattan Tuesday to help kick-start the Harley-Davidson Cafe, a new three-storey restaurant replete with snarling engines, make-believe exhaust fumes, and catwalks brimming with "Harley hogs" dating back 90 years. The three-storey cafe is an homage to the manufacturer that made its first motorcycles in 1903 and was made infamous by biker gangs like the one led by Marlon Brando in his 1954 film, The Wild One. The restaurant is swimming with references to movie stars and rock'n'roll singers who have owned Harley-Davidsons. "There's nothing more American than a Harley," U.S. football great O.J. Simpson, who attended the party, said. "As a Harley is to America, a Swiss army knife is to the Swiss," he said. Other guests at the opening night gala were actor Peter Fonda, comic Bobcat Goldthwaite, Manhattan real estate magnate Donald Trump and talk show host Joan Rivers.

## Disney to cut film scene tied to teen's death

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Walt Disney Co. said it would delete a scene from the film The Program showing college football players lying in the middle of a highway after one teenager was killed and two injured while imitating the stunt. In a virtually unprecedented action, Disney said the brief sequence would be removed from the copies of the film already showing in theatres nationwide by Friday. The film about the rough-and-tumble world of college football shows drunken players trying to prove their manhood by lying end-to-end in the road while cars whizzed by. "While the scene in the movie in no way advocates this irresponsible activity,"

## NATO discusses new U.S. plan on East Europe, nuclear threat

TRAVEMUENDE, Germany (R) — The United States Wednesday unveiled major new proposals on the administration of Eastern European nations to NATO and the potential spread of mass destruction weapons to renegade states.

It made the suggestions to NATO defence ministers who opened a two-day meeting in this German Baltic resort in the face of growing chaos in Europe and strains in vital transatlantic ties. The ministers plan to discuss ways in which the alliance might be used to return a fractious continent to stability.

With North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit approaching in January, U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said he would discuss the possibility of admitting East European states which are clamouring to join NATO.

Speaking to reporters aboard his aircraft on the way to the Travemuende meeting, Mr. Aspin declined to give details but said the U.S. proposal would go beyond a vague commitment that such nations might be able to join at some point in the future.

NATO diplomats said it was the first time the United States, the senior member of the 16-nation alliance, had indicated a clear position on the issue of expansion.

Mr. Aspin said the proposals would form the basis of Washington's position at the NATO summit in January.

Many U.S. allies are reluctant to take on new NATO

members soon, partly because of concern that it might upset an already unstable Russia. But countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic remain keen to join.

Mr. Aspin also said he would discuss U.S. plans for NATO to deal with a new threat — the spread of nuclear and chemical weapons and the missiles and technology used to deliver them.

NATO is concerned that such weapons or technology might fall into the hands of renegade states, particularly since the collapse of the Soviet Union two years ago. Russia now holds the world's biggest arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

"It's a brand new world out there," Mr. Aspin said. "What we face now is a handful of nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists, terrorist groups, terrorist states."

Underlining the instability in post-cold war Europe, Ukraine said Tuesday, it intended to keep some of the former Soviet nuclear weapons left on its soil despite an earlier pledge that it would give them up.

But European allies are also concerned about the threat posed by missiles around the southern fringes of NATO, especially from the Middle East and North Africa.

"The thing that the Europeans are most worried about is the development and spread of missile technology," Mr. Aspin said.

Defence ministers will dis-

cuss the alliance's new role in peacekeeping, including the prospect of joint training exercises and manoeuvres with former Warsaw Pact foes.

But they must also tackle problems within NATO, including disagreements between Washington and its allies over Bosnia and over the cost and responsibilities for defending Western Europe.

The West's failure to end the war in Bosnia has strained the transatlantic ties at the heart of NATO and brought sharp attacks on European policy from Washington, which is facing a foreign policy crisis over Somalia and Haiti.

Defence ministers will discuss organisation plans to deploy about 50,000 troops to enforce any peace plan in Bosnia.

Problems with a Bosnia plan include financing because of shrinking defence budgets, how it would work under a U.N. mandate and a lack of force contributions from many allies. There is also a question mark over the key U.S. contribution.

The summit in January will be the first since Mr. Clinton was elected president last November.

France, which left NATO's military structure in 1966 in protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of European security affairs and does not attend meetings of defence ministers, was invited to come to the Travemuende meeting but declined.



## Iraqis resolved to win despite odds against them

DOHA (AP) — Iraq's head coach appeared confident Wednesday that his team would qualify for the 1994 soccer championship in the United States, despite the odds against it halfway into the final round of the Asia World Cup qualifying.

"We can make it," the coach, Amnol Baba Dawood, popularly known as Amnol Baba, said. "Now that one single defeat means out of the tournament, we will go flat out."

Baba was flown in earlier this week after the Iraqi Football Association, which is headed by President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, fired head coach Adnan Dirjel.

Dirjel was sacked after the team's 3-2 defeat against North Korea in the tournament's opening match Friday. He was thrown out of the stadium after the game, prompting a stern warning from FIFA, the world soccer body.

Iraq, staking its prestige on qualifying for the World Cup, drew with South Korea 2-2 Tuesday, keeping a flickering hope of making it to the final. Iraq has made a political issue out of the games. It hopes to break its international isolation and revamp the nation's eroded morale by sending its players to the United States, which led the coalition forces in the 1991 Gulf War.

Two slots are allocated for Asia in the final. South Korea and Saudi Arabia now top the table at this six-nation qualification round, with three points each.

They are followed by North Korea and Iran who have collected two points each, then



South Korea's Hwang Sun Hung (right) attempts an acrobatic kick in front of Iraq's Hassan Samir during their Asian World Cup qualifying group match Tuesday (AFP photo)

Iraq and Japan with one point each.

But Iraq could still make it to the final if it wins the remaining games against Iran Friday, Saudi Arabia Sunday and Japan on Oct. 28.

"If you don't have hope, you may as well go home," said chief Japanese coach Marius Ooft of his team's prospect.

"We just can't afford to drop any more points," said Ooft, a Dutchman whose team is in the same position as Iraq's.

In addition to its game with

Iraq, Iran meets North Korea Monday and Saudi Arabia on Oct. 28. It has surprised the soccer world with a 2-1 victory over Japan last Monday.

"The match with Iraq will be very crucial," said Parvin Ali, the chief coach for Iran which fought an eight-year war between 1980 and 1988 against Iraq.

"The Iraqis will surely do everything for victory, but we are prepared," Ali said.

In the remaining matches of the round-robin tournament,

North Korea meets Japan Thursday, Iran Monday and arch-rival South Korea on Oct. 28.

"I have no doubt that we are going to qualify," said Saudi Arabia's chief coach Jose Candido, whose team's battle against South Korea Friday, could be decisive.

"It is fantastic, real soccer, where you can't say who will make it even at halfway," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the FIFA's Asian Football Confederation.

## Blue Jays take 2-1 World Series lead

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Paul Molitor homered and tripled, scored three times and drove in three runs as the Toronto Blue Jays routed the Philadelphia Phillies 10-3 Tuesday to lead the World Series two games to one.

Roberto Alomar went 4-for-5 with two RBI and Tony Fernandez had two hits, two RBI and a run scored to lead the defending champion Blue Jays' 13-hit attack.

Molitor made a winner of Toronto manager Cito Gaston's agonizing decision to bench American League batting champion Jody Olerud and make a first baseman of Molitor, normally his designated hitter.

"Looks to me like Cito made the right choice today," said Philadelphia manager Jim Fregosi.

Molitor, second in the A.L. only to Olerud's .363 batting average at .332 during the regular season, went 3-for-4, showed his speed by beating out an infield single and even started a double play at his unaccustomed position.

"It was an awkward feeling being back out there," said Molitor, who came over to Toronto this year from Milwaukee.

"Getting off to a good start offensively made it a little bit easier to play defense," said the 37-year-old Molitor, who tripled in his first at-bat.

Rookie starter Pat Hentgen went six innings, allowing just one run on five hits, and Danny Cox and Duane Ward finished up for Toronto.

Philadelphia lefty starter Danny Jackson was racked for four runs on six hits in five innings, and his reliever Ben Rivera gave up four more runs in just 1-1/3 innings.

In game four of the best-of-seven series Wednesday, weather permitting, Todd Stottlemyre is expected to start for Toronto and Tommy Greene for Philadelphia.

Hentgen, 19-9 in the regular season, led the Jays in victories and set a club record with 12 road wins.

"I don't know why I do so much better on the road but maybe if you go back and check the games, the offense seems to give me the lead more often on the road," the 24-year-old right-hander said.

The start of the game was delayed by rain for one hour and 12 minutes. The rain never came back, but Fregosi felt the delay might have hampered Jackson's readiness "a little bit."

Jackson was in trouble from the start as leadoff man Rickey Henderson singled to right and Devon White walked on five pitches. Then Molitor tripled, bringing both in, and Joe Carter brought him in with a sacrifice fly to right.

Hentgen got in some first-inning trouble of his own when, after Lenox Dykstra struck out, Mariano Duncan and John Kruk both singled. Both took an extra base on Joe Carter's error in right. But Hentgen struck out Dave Hollins and Darro Daulton, both swinging at fast balls, to end the threat.

Said Hentgen: "In the first inning my stomach was bubbling and I reached back and threw fast balls."

Fregosi called the Phils' failure to score in the first "a big turning point in the game."

The Jays added a run in the third on Molitor's two-out, first-pitch homer to left, then loaded the bases on successive singles by Carter, Alomar and Tony Fernandez, but Jackson struck out Ed Sprague swinging to keep the score 4-0.

Toronto.

The Jays added another run in the sixth when Alomar hit a bloop single to left, stole second and third, and scored on Fernandez's sacrifice fly to deep right.

"Paul and I did the job offensively," said Alomar, "and I'm sure that makes Cito feel good."

The Phils got on the board in the sixth when Jim Eisenreich hit a two-out single plating Kruk, who had walked, and sending Daulton, who also had walked, to second. But Hentgen then struck out Pete Incaviglia swinging to leave the score at 5-1.

The Jays made it 8-1 in the seventh. Henderson led off with a double. White tripled him home. Molitor walked and Alomar hit an RBI single. Then Fernandez walked to load the bases and Ed Sprague hit a sacrifice fly, the Jays' third of the game to set a World Series record.

Cox came on in relief of Hentgen to start the seventh and the Phils scored a run off him when Duncan singled in Milt Thompson to make 8-2.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANHAN HIRSCH  
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### AGAINST THE ODDS

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 8 3  
♥ J 9 8  
♦ J 8 2  
♣ A 5 6 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ A Q 10 6  
♥ 7 5  
♦ K Q 10 8 4  
♣ 9 7 5 3

**WEST**  
♠ J 8 2  
♥ 7 5  
♦ K Q 10 8 4  
♣ 9 7 5 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 7 5 4  
♥ A K Q 10  
♦ Void  
♣ Q J 10 8 7 3

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 2 ♠ 2 ♣  
3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Analysis: This is a case where five clubs is the one spot where North-South are in limbo.

Why? Because as the cards lie, 11 tricks will never be made—the hand produces either 10 or 12 tricks.

East was rather timid in the auction. We would probably have bid five diamonds with the East cards at our first turn, and would certainly

not have sold out to five clubs in the pass-out seat. Note that only a heart lead by North, rather unlikely in view of the auction, would defeat five diamonds—a third round of the suit promotes North's jack of diamonds to the setting trick.

Against five clubs West led the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

Declarer ruffed the first trick and led the queen of clubs. Despite odds that favor the drop over the finesse by 52 percent to 48 percent, when East followed with a low trump declarer played low from dummy. Why?

The safety of the contract was more important than taking the best shot at bringing in the trump suit without loss. Even if the finesse lost, 11 tricks were guaranteed. The king of spades would be safe from attack and declarer would be able to discard two of the table's spades on hearts.

Note that going up with the ace of clubs at trick two will blow the contract. When the king doesn't drop, declarer must go after hearts. West will alertly ruff the third heart and shift to a spade, netting the defenders a total of three tricks.

## Hapless China eye 2002 World Cup finals

PEKING (R) — Soccer weaklings China, booted out of four World Cups by countries a fraction of their size, said they were planning to introduce professional football to help develop the game in time for the 2002 competition.

The long-range target is part of a 10-year reform strategy devised at an official soccer summit which ended this week in the northern port of Dalian, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said.

"China's men's soccer team shall try to qualify for the finals of the 2002 World Cup soccer tournament and to enter the top 16 in the tournament," Xinhua said.

The world's most populous country vowed to dominate Asian soccer by the same year.

The scheme is to be boosted by the establishment of 20 professional soccer clubs with up to 500 players, and youth teams at 40 per cent of primary schools and 25 per cent of high schools.

China failed miserably in their first World Cup effort for the 1982 tournament. And fans rioted in 1985 after China were

denied a Mexico World Cup final 16 spot by tiny Hong Kong, a loss made doubly painful by the Chinese territory's status as a British colony.

Long-suffering supporters still wince over China's humiliating 2-1 elimination before the 1990 finals by Qatar, whose population of 300,000 is one four-thousandth that of China's.

## Kasparov reigns for 2 more years

LONDON (R) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov can look forward to at least two more years as the world's top player after clinching his title defence against British challenger Nigel Short in London's Savoy Theatre.

Kasparov, 30, played a safe draw in the 19th game of the match Tuesday to reach the magic score of 12-7 in the 24-game contest, after six wins, one loss and 12 draws.

A 12-12 tie is enough to retain his title. But the match continues to decide the split of the £1.7 million (\$2.6 million) purse sponsored by the Times of London newspaper, with just over £1 million (\$1.5 million) going to the winner.

Although Kasparov is widely regarded as the strongest player in the history of the game, his victory has been slightly tainted by the controversial rift in the chess world.

Early this year the world chess body FIDE disqualified Kasparov and Short after a bitter dispute over the conditions of the title match.

The two struck back by forming the Professional Chess Association (PCA), and organising the lucrative London match.

FIDE have staged a rival official match between Kasparov's Russian arch-rival Anatoly Karpov and Dutchman Jan

Timman, but that encounter has been plagued by financial problems linked to the lack of credibility of a title event without Kasparov.

Critics feared that the rift could lead to chaos, where the champion could hand-pick opponents and sidestep dangerous challengers.

Others worried that Kasparov could become a paper champion, like former American world champion Bobby Fischer who was stripped of his title by FIDE after refusing to defend it in 1975.

But for now, chess experts and business sponsors clearly agree that Kasparov is simply the best.

Short, 28, became a convincing challenger this year, having eliminated both of the current FIDE title candidates Karpov and Timman in qualifying matches.

The Briton's title challenge against Kasparov began disastrously with five losses in the first nine games, but he recovered to hold the champion even over the last 10.

Kasparov was sufficiently impressed by Short's ability to adapt to the rigours of title play to tip him as the favourite to emerge from the PCA cycle for a rematch in 1995.

The London match continues Thursday with Short



Garry Kasparov

having the advantage of the white pieces and first move.

### Karpov wins 15th game

JAKARTA (R) — Anatoly Karpov of Russia beat Jan Timman of the Netherlands in the 15th game of the official World Chess Championship Monday after 34 moves and four hours' play.

Karpov now holds a near-decisive lead in the match, 9.5 points to 5.5 for Timman.

The next game will be played Friday with Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces and the first move. The winner of the 24-game match will be the first player to score 12.5 points.

Karpov and Timman exchanged a series of dramatic moves in the 15th game.

## Tour De France returns to Britain after 20 years

PARIS (R) — The Tour De France returns to Britain for the first time in 20 years in 1994, taking the unconventional route for the new Channel Tunnel, organisers announced Wednesday.

Tour Director Jean-Marie Leblanc told a news conference they wanted to mark the historic opening of the tunnel between Britain and France a few weeks before the world's

greatest cycle race opens on July 12.

History will also be respected on the return to France after two stages in southern England with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Normandy D-Day landings in the port of Cherbourg.

To complete the tour's embrace of past and future, the race will begin its final stage at the Eurodisney theme park

outside Paris before the traditional Champs Elysees finish on July 24.

The sporting interest of the tour is heavily confined to the final week, with a succession of daunting mountain stages in the Alps, including a time trial two days from the finish which could well prove decisive.

Route tracers have designed a race to keep up the suspense as long as possible to avoid the prospect of Spain's Miguel Indurain wrapping up a fourth successive victory much too early.

Instead of the two long, flat time trials which Indurain

dominates so easily, there is only one individual race-against-the-clock on the flat.

The second time trial, between Cluses and Morzine in the Alps, is a tough 45-kilometre struggle over three passes, one likely to be more suited to Indurain's great rival, Swiss Tony Rominger.

Indurain's immediate reaction was cautious. "There are a lot of high mountains this time in the Alps," he said. "There are four finishes too on climbs and the mountain time trial."

"It's different from other years and it will be more difficult."

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Bashir names military men to new government

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has named men with strong links to the dissolved military unit as the first two members of what was supposed to be a new civilian cabinet. Gen. Bashir on Tuesday appointed Major-General Al Zubair Mohammad Saleh, the junta's former deputy leader, as vice president. He also named Gen. Hassan Abdul Rahman Alai, former army chief of staff, as defence minister. On Saturday, the nine-member ruling Revolutionary Command Council dissolved itself, named Gen. Bashir president and increased the power of the appointed parliament in an apparent effort to move towards civilian rule. In Cairo, Mustafa Osman, a Sudanese minister of state, told reporters the changes were part of a programme "to end up finally with the parliament elected by the people of Sudan" as well as an elected president and vice president. Mr. Osman said no decision has been made on when to hold elections but the aim was to establish civilian rule by next June 30. That would be five years after Gen. Bashir took power in a bloodless coup.

### Iraqi pilot 'defects' to Saudi Arabia

DHAHRAN (AP) — An Iraqi fighter pilot has defected with his warplane from Iraq to Saudi Arabia. Saudi and Western sources reported Wednesday. Insisting on not being further identified, the sources said the defector landed in the kingdom on Tuesday. They refused to provide the name or rank of the defector or give details of the aircraft, beyond saying it was a military plane. Also, it was not immediately clear what route the defector took to reach the kingdom. Normally, such a flight would involve using Iraq's southern airspace, below the 32nd Parallel, which is patrolled by U.S.-led allied planes. Dick McNally, spokesman for the joint task force command in Riyadh, declined comment on Tuesday's reported defection. "I have nothing on that," he said. There were several Iraqi defections to Saudi Arabia during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, but Tuesday's was the first known incident since the end of the U.S.-led operation Desert Storm which liberated Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation on Feb. 26, 1991.

### Feud in courtroom leaves four dead

ISTANBUL (AFP) — A shootout in a courtroom left four members of one family dead and another wounded, police said Wednesday. Two families, the Kacar and the Saglam, had taken their feud to the court to be settled when two of the Kacar allegedly produced shotguns and fired on their adversaries in the courtroom in the Zeytinburnu district. Police said those who fired the shots plus other members of the Kacar family had been arrested.

### Coptic Christian killed in Egypt

ASSIUT (AFP) — Islamic militants killed one Coptic Christian and wounded another when they sprayed an Egyptian pharmacy with bullets Wednesday, police said. The attack took place in the Muslim fundamentalist heartland of Assiut province, some 400 kilometres south of Cairo. Police said the attackers burst into a pharmacy in Dairut, near Assiut, and shot down a 35-year-old doctor, Nassehat Fawzi Alzokm, and shot and seriously injured the owner, Edward Maqar, 48. Alzokm died of his injuries in hospital. Islamic militants, waging a violent campaign against the Egyptian government for the past 18 months, have targeted Copts, accusing them of collaborating with the police. Some 36 Copts, 75 militants and 64 policemen have been killed in the campaign.

### German contacts with Iran upset Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel voiced concern Wednesday over the renewed dialogue and trade ties between Germany and Iran. Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told parliament that the government "is following very closely and with great concern" relations between Bonn and Tehran. "Increasing cooperation between German companies and Iran and Bonn's stance on the matter is one of the most complex questions our ministry has to deal with today," Mr. Beilin said. Talks between Iran's Intelligence and Security Minister Ali Fallahian and his German counterpart in early October provoked protests from the United States and Britain. Bonn hit back saying it would continue to talk to Iranian officials when necessary on humanitarian matters.

### UAE seizes 62 illegal emigrants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast guard has seized 62 Iranians and Afghans for entering the country illegally. Al Khaleej newspaper reported Wednesday. It said 37 Iranians and Afghans were seized in the northern town of Dibba Al Hush close to the Omani border after they sneaked in by sea. Another 25 Iranians were captured Monday night as they tried to leave Dubai by sea after illegally entering the emirate, police said. Nearly 1,000 people, mostly Asians, were reported seized this year as they tried to enter the oil-rich Gulf country in search for jobs.

### Clerides denounces anti-royal demonstration

LIMASSOL (AP) — President Glafcos Clerides on Wednesday denounced demonstrations against Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, whose visit here has revived memories of colonial rule. Mr. Clerides was commenting on a protest that took place at Famagusta Gate in downtown Nicosia, where the queen was being honoured with the ceremonial golden key to the city. A statement from Mr. Clerides' office said that the president "unreservedly condemns the isolated incident in which a small number of people expressed disapproval." About 300 demonstrators protested during the ceremony, shouting slogans against the execution by British authorities of nine nationalist guerrillas before independence in 1961. The queen is visiting Cyprus for the biennial summit of the 50-nation Commonwealth, the association of Britain and ex-colonies, which starts Thursday. She was beginning a series of individual audiences with Commonwealth leaders abroad the royal yacht Britannia, later Wednesday.

### Mohdshemi wants Palestinians change tactics

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's most militant public figure Ali Akbar Mohtashemi says Palestinians should step up attacks on Israel outside the Gaza Strip and Jericho to pit Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) against each other and scuttle the peace pact. "What is recommended to Islamic forces like Hamas, Islamic Jihad and others is to do exactly the opposite of what Israel wants them to do," the former interior minister told Jahan-e-Islam newspaper in an interview this week. "This means that any kind of intra-Palestinian clashes must be strictly avoided... no excuses should be given to (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and his supporters," he said. Mr. Mohtashemi, a Muslim cleric, has been sidelined since he lost his cabinet job when President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani took office in 1989. But he carries weight because of his links with Arab groups built up when he was Iran's ambassador to Damascus in the early 1980s.

### 3 on trial for helping Iraqi rockets

MEUNSTER (AP) — Three industrialists went on trial Tuesday on charges of helping Iraq extend the range of Scud B rockets used by Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war. Prosecutors also accuse the three of assisting Libya with its own arms programme by selling Libya machines that can make rocket components. Dietrich Hinz, 55, Peter Huettner, 62, and Helmut Beumer, 51, are on trial in Munster state court for allegedly breaking Germany's weapons control law. The men, former employees of the now bankrupt H and H Metallform company of Drensteinfurt near Munster, are accused of selling to Iraq parts used in the construction of medium-range Scud B rockets for artillery systems. Iraq fired Scud B rockets at Israel several times during the Gulf war.

## Haiti premier threatens to quit

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Haiti's embattled civilian prime minister threatened Wednesday to quit in 10 days if Haiti's army and police chiefs refuse to leave as required by a U.N.-brokered peace plan.

Prime Minister Robert Malval's comments added even more pressure to international mediators trying to push through the plan to return exiled Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Oct. 30. Earlier Wednesday, a leading parliamentarian said lawmakers could not complete work on the plan in time, but a U.S. spokesman insisted the plan was "still not dead."

Mr. Malval, in an interview with private radio Tropic FM, said he had spoken with Mr. Aristide on Tuesday night, and the exiled president said he could not come back Oct. 30 with coup leaders Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras and the chief of the army's police division, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Michel Francois, in power.

The radio said Mr. Malval would quit if Mr. Aristide was not back by then and Gen. Cedras and Col. Francois had not stepped down. An aide to Mr. Malval, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that report.

"Morally, I don't want to be an accomplice of these manoeuvres," Mr. Malval said in the radio broadcast. The aide said Mr. Malval would only consider staying on if Mr. Aristide himself extended the Oct. 30 deadline.

Mr. Malval's departure could cripple international efforts to restore democracy here. He has been under considerable pressure to push Mr. Aristide for further concessions to the restive military, including a general amnesty.

## World Bank sets up trust funds for Gaza

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank has established two trust funds totalling \$85 million to assist critically needed development in the West Bank and Gaza.

The bank action, which had been anticipated, is the latest move following the historic agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The proposed assistance programmes, which the trust funds will finance, have the potential to quickly improve conditions of life in the occupied territories, thereby fostering world peace and prosperity," World Bank Vice President Caio Koch-Weser said in a statement.

The bank said a \$50 million trust fund drawn from bank surplus and administered by the International Development Association (IDA), the affiliate that helps the poorest countries, is aimed at supporting an emergency rehabilitation programme for Gaza.

The objective of a separate \$35 million trust fund will be to provide technical assistance and to finance studies in the occupied territories.

The bank said approval of the IDA funding has opened the way for it to hold discussions with officials in Gaza on assistance programmes which must then be approved by the executive board.

The \$35 million fund, for which bilateral, multilateral and other donor contributions have been mobilised, is to finance feasibility studies for technical assistance and the establishment of basic institutions in the territories.

About \$30 million from international donors have been committed to date, while the bank's own contribution makes up the rest, it said.

Assistance for the territories, aimed at backing the political agreement with financial muscle, was a focus last month of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The financial needs of the region is open to some dispute with some economists arguing that public and private investment would need to amount to \$20 billion over the longer term.

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## Palestinians will not push for lifting of boycott of Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians will not prod Arab states to end their trade boycott of Israel unless Israel lifts its closure of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Palestinian peace negotiator said Wednesday.

The delegate, Samir Abdulrahman, a top Palestinian economist, suggested that the Palestinians would also use the boycott as a bargaining chip to win Israeli concessions on other issues. He did not specify which ones.

Leading Israeli industrialist Dan Proper, meanwhile, said that with the Middle East peace talks in high gear, the boycott has become an anachronism, and that he expected several of the Gulf states to begin open trade with Israel "very soon."

Mr. Proper said the Arab boycott costs Israeli industry several hundred million dollars a year in lost business. He said several Israeli business people are "looking for opportunities in the Gulf states, and although these things are still done behind closed doors, I believe these doors will open very soon."

Mr. Proper said that the

peace process has opened new markets for Israel and was largely responsible for an economic growth of 3.5 per cent and export growth of 17 per cent this year.

Mr. Proper said Israeli companies should be allowed to participate in large regional projects expected to be launched in the Middle East with the signing of peace treaties, such as new highways.

Dr. Abdullah and Mr. Proper, head of the Israeli manufacturers association, spoke at a rare joint news conference in Jerusalem.

Dr. Abdullah said Israel should raise its quota for Palestinian workers to 120,000, or about one-third of the Palestinian labour force. Israel had slashed the number of work permits to 50,000 when it closed the territories in March following a wave of attacks on Israelis.

He said the Palestinian economy needed more than five years to find jobs in the occupied lands, where unemployment ranges between 30 and 50 per cent.

Dr. Abdullah said Palestinians can not be expected to side with Israel on the Arab

boycott issue until the closure is lifted. "Since we are facing a boycott from our neighbour (Israel) at the moment, we can't fight against the Arab boycott," he said.

An Arab League boycott committee meeting is scheduled for Damascus Oct. 24, and Israeli officials suggested it will discuss tightening the boycott.

"The boycott is one of the most tangible symbols of the Arab World's refusal to recognise Israel's right to exist," said Harry Wall, head of the Israel office of the anti-Defamation League, a U.S.-based Jewish lobbying group.

He said at least two U.S. companies had been added to the boycott list recently despite the peace process.

He said this was unfair because Israel was actively campaigning for foreign investment and economic aid to help the Palestinians establish self-rule in the occupied lands.

"Israel is helping to promote investments for the Palestinians. It's absurd that this happens while the boycott is still being conducted," he said.

## Prince Abdullah Bridge under study

By John Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordanians and Palestinians are studying a plan to reopen a bridge across the River Jordan to serve as the key link between a Palestinian autonomous area and the outside world, officials said Wednesday.

The Prince Abdullah Bridge, built in 1960, is the southernmost crossing before the river pours into the Dead Sea. It was closed when Israel seized the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

The bridge, suitable for vehicle traffic, is part of a major highway between Amman and the West Bank town of Jericho, which is expected to be the headquarters for Palestinian autonomy envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

A Jordanian official said a final decision was expected after Israeli and PLO negotiators reached agreement in talks in the Egyptian resort of Tabá on the precise area that the Jewish state will evacuate under the accord.

Under the accord, Israel is expected to begin withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

The PLO official said Israel had made improvements on a stretch of the Amman-Jericho road on the western side of the river and linked it with the main Jericho-Bethlehem highway.

The bridge is located near the spot where tradition says Jesus Christ was baptised.

A senior European diplomat

said: "It is premature to discuss the project before the Israelis and PLO reach agreement on how much territory around Jericho that the Israelis will hand over to the PLO," said the official, who requested anonymity.

A senior PLO official, also requesting anonymity, said Israel was offering only 27 square kilometres around Jericho while the Palestinians were seeking 340 square kilometres of territory.

The issue was expected to be on the table at Tabá, where Israel and PLO officials were meeting Wednesday to discuss the implementation of the autonomy agreement, which went into effect Oct. 13.

Under the accord, Israel is expected to begin withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

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A senior European diplomat

said: "The Amman-Jericho road does away with the need for anyone to pass through anywhere else in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and serves the Israeli purpose of separating the autonomous area from other territories."

Furthermore, he said, it would help Israeli plans to build a major highway from its Mediterranean port of Haifa to the River Jordan to serve as the main conduit into the Arab heartland through Jordan.

The upstream King Hussein Bridge currently serves as the only passenger crossing between the West and East Banks of the River Jordan.

The Prince Mohammad bridge, further north, is used only for vehicular traffic.

The 50-kilometre Jordanian side of the Amman-Jericho road has been rebuilt at a cost of \$37 million, partly funded by the American government.

U.S. diplomats have nicknamed it "the peace road."

It is now mostly used by tourists visiting the Dead Sea, and a three-kilometre stretch towards the Prince Abdullah bridge is off-limits for civilians.

Officials say that the area is heavily sown with mines.

## Hezb Al Tahrir leaders say they unaware of Muta plot

By Dina Zorba  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two leaders of a party which is accused of masterminding a plot to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein told the State Security Court Wednesday that they had no knowledge of the affair and were being detained for belonging to an illegal political organisation.

Also on Wednesday, the three-member military tribunal presided over by Colonel Hafiz Amin rejected a defence motion to have the eight defendants in the case re-examined by independent doctors for what the defence claimed were signs of torture.

Col. Amin said the court was satisfied with the medical examination conducted on the defendants by Ministry of Health doctors and the physicians could be called to testify if the defence wanted to.

The court also rejected a prosecution motion against hearing the two witnesses who testified Wednesday.

The prosecution had argued that one of the witnesses, Bakr Khawaldeh, was chairman of the Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami (Islamic Liberation Party), and the other Ata Abu Rishdeh, was the spokesman for the party, and as such their testimonies could not be considered valid since party members were among the accused.

The court ruled that it would assess the validity of the witnesses' testimonies after hearing them.

Mr. Khawaldeh and Mr. Abu Rishdeh testified that they were detained since the third week of May because they were members of Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami, which is not a registered political party in Jordan.

Both testified that they were not tortured in detention and Red Cross representatives were paying regular visits to

them in detention.

They admitted to being members of the Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami and that the party did advocate the establishment of an Islamic caliphate-style state, but believed that Jordan was not the ideal country to launch the scheme.

They also denied that Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami, which was established in 1951 in the West Bank and opened a Jordan chapter in 1952 before being outlawed by a 1957 ban on all political parties, supported violence as a means to achieve its objective.

Instead, they said, the party believed in "persuasion and preaching."

Mr. Khawaldeh and Mr. Abu Rishdeh were called as witnesses by the defence in the seven-week-old trial of the assassination plot. Ten people are being tried, two in absentia, on charges of "plotting against the life of the King," and conspiring to rewrite the Constitution and seize power through "violent means."

Five of the accused are students of the Muta University in the south, another is an ex-student and a lieutenant in the Armed Forces. The other four, including the two fugitives, are described as Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami activists who recruited the others to execute the plot.

According to the indictment, some of the five students were supposed to have opened fire on the King when he was inspecting a guard of honour at Muta on June 26. The prosecution says the accused were arrested in April when an informant tipped off the authorities.

When the arrest of Mr. Khawaldeh and Mr. Abu Rishdeh came to light, it was believed that they were also held in connection with the Muta plot, but the two Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami leaders told the court Wednesday that they were being held for membership in

an illegal organisation.

They told the court that their party did not apply for recognition as a political group in Jordan since the 1992 law on political parties did not allow any Jordanian political party to have external links.

They said Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami was linked with parties of the same name "all over the world."

The objective of the defence in the case appeared to be prove that Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami did not advocate violence as a means to serve its goals. On Tuesday, the defence called three Islamic scholars who were members of the party in the 50s to testify that the group did not espouse violence.

The three, two former ministers — Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Sheikh Izzeddine Tamimi (who is the serving chief Islamic justice) — and Sheikh Assad Bayyoud Al Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad-Beit Al Maqdis — told the court they quit the party in the late 50s and had not kept track of the group's activities and ideology since then.

Prosecution witnesses have testified that the five Muta students accused in the case were devout Muslims who rejected the policies of the regime, and that they admired Khaled Islambouli, who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a Cairo military parade in October 1981.

They also testified that the ex-student/army officer had recruited the five students to carry out the plot upon the instigation of the four Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami activists accused in the case.

Evidence produced in court include Hezb Al Tahrir Al Islami books and leaflets.

All defendants have pleaded not guilty.

The court continues the hearing today.

## COLUMN

### Mitterrand's dog found through TV appeal

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand's black Labrador, missing for more than a month, is back home thanks to a nationally televised appeal. Atchoum, the French equivalent of the sneezing sound "achoo," bolted past guards at the Elysee Palace in central Paris several weeks ago. He was found by a local animal association and placed in a pound. But Atchoum didn't stay there for long. Smitten by his good breeding and refined demeanor, a woman quickly adopted him and took him to her apartment in northern Paris. After several attempts to locate him failed, the Mitterrands contacted "30 Million Friends," a prime-time animal show broadcast every Saturday by TF1, France's No. 1 channel. The woman, who was not identified, immediately recognised her new dog as the lost presidential pet and alerted the channel after the show last weekend. According to French radio reports, Danielle Mitterrand herself went to get Atchoum. The dog's would-be adopted mother has since been rewarded with a new dog.

### Top students admit they cheat in school

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cheating is pervasive among the nation's top high school students, according to a survey of juniors and seniors with at least a B average. Nearly 80 per cent admitted some dishonesty, such as copying someone else's homework or cheating on an exam. The survey by Who's Who Among American High School Students covered a wide range of topics and found that principals have a lot more to worry about than providing students a good education. "High school is a very dangerous place today," Paul Krouse, the Who's Who publisher, said. The 24th annual survey of high achievers, completed during the 1992-93 academic year, found that among the 1,975 students questioned: One in five of the females had been a victim of a sexual assault, in most instances by someone she knew. In one-third of the cases, the assailant was another student. One in three knows someone who has brought a weapon to school; forty-two per cent of the males have access to one or more firearms; more than half reported frequent fights between students. Five per cent said there had been a shooting on school grounds, and 7.3 per cent reported a knife fight; one-third considered suicide. The survey also found the teens had a "startling lack of responsibility about their physical welfare."

### Child abuse cases on rise in U.S.

CHICAGO (R) — Child abuse is rising in the United States, with the latest statistics showing 2.5 million abuse cases reported to family service agencies in 1991, a report published Tuesday by the American Medical Association (AMA) said. Child abuse occurred at a rate of 42 per 1,000 children, reflecting an increase in reported cases since 1980, the AMA's Council of Scientific Affairs said. One-quarter of those child-abuse victims were adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 years old, according to the report entitled "adolescents as victims of family violence." The AMA urged doctors to screen their child patients for signs of violence or maltreatment.

### Seoul envoy carless in Moscow

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's embassy in Moscow is stepping up security after the ambassador had two cars stolen within five days, Yonhap News Agency reported Wednesday. Ambassador Kim Suk-Kyu's Mercedes 300 was stolen last Wednesday while he was having lunch at home. The Russian driver had left the car unattended for only five minutes, Yonhap said. Mr. Kim started using a second embassy Mercedes which was stolen Sunday while parked for five minutes outside a fast-food restaurant, the agency reported. Yonhap quoted an embassy official as saying there was a strong possibility the thefts were carried out to embarrass and harm South Korea. He did not elaborate.